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Japan

Ministry Spokesman Views Gorbachev, Abe Remarks

OW1601150490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1443 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's mention Monday of Japan's "sovereign right" with respect to four disputed islands was not an admission of the rightfulness of Japan's claims to the Soviet-occupied territories, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday. "We don't see anything in the report we have received indicating that the Soviet Union has recognized (Japan's) right to claim the territories," Taizo Watanabe said.

Watanabe was commenting on a report of the meeting in Moscow on Monday between Gorbachev and Shintaro Abe, former secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and a former foreign minister.

"I think it's a very bold interpretation," the spokesman said of Japanese press interpretations of Gorbachev's remarks to Abe that Moscow cannot force its views on its neighbors as "sovereign rights" are involved. Gorbachev was speaking in the context of welcoming Abe's suggestion that the two sides seek to settle their problems with wisdom, while simultaneously developing bilateral exchanges in broad areas.

Watanabe also denied that Abe's proposal for expanded economic cooperation with Moscow represents a break with the principle of nonseparation of economic issues from political ones. Japan has been reluctant to engage in full-fledged economic ties with Moscow in the absence of a territorial settlement over the three islands and a group of islets occupied by the Soviets since the end of World War II. But it has come under pressure to relax its rigid policy and extend support to Gorbachev's program of reform as part of its contribution to solidifying the trends of East-West reconciliation and East European reforms.

Abe's proposal, unofficially endorsed by the government, included the dispatch of Japanese specialists to the Soviet Union to impart corporate know-how and improve Soviet industrial productivity. Watanabe said the proposal, put forth by one he noted was a future candidate for the premiership, were actually encompassed by a "broad interpretation" of the government's earlier proposal to expand cooperative ties with Moscow in four areas while pursuing progress in talks toward a peace treaty and a solution to the territorial dispute. Watanabe said that despite the relaxation in Japan's stance, the territorial dispute continues to have the highest priority and stressed that it would not be shelved while economic relations are promoted.

Watanabe said the most significant outcome of the meeting was "the fact that Gorbachev himself confirmed his intention to visit Japan in 1991," on the condition there are no obstacles preventing it. Watanabe called the personal confirmation of a decision earlier conveyed to Japan "meaningful" and said it will likely have "a favorable impact" on the peace treaty negotiations.

Although Abe suggested to Gorbachev that he visit Japan early in the year "while the cherry blossoms are in bloom," Watanabe said the Soviet leader did not choose to elaborate on the timing of his visit. Watanabe said there has been a gradual evolution in the "tone" of Gorbachev remark's on the territorial issue, from a negative one to a positive one. He noted that when Abe last met Gorbachev in May 1986, Gorbachev told him that in pressing territorial claims, Abe was broaching an issue which should not be taken up in view of the inviolability of postwar national borders. But the Soviet leader told former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone in July 1988 that "something should be throught out" in spite of the differences in the two countries' approaches to the issue, Watanabe said.

When Gorbachev met then Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno last May, moreover, he said Moscow would not like to leave problems that are worrisome to both countries undealt with, but would like to instead proceed in somehow resolving them. "That means there is a willingness on the Soviet side to try to cope with this territorial issue and that is the point with which we are very impressed," Watanabe said.

"We do not necessarily foresee any solution will take place at the time of Gorbachev's visit, but rather a change in direction that would be favorable," he said.

Yeltsin Pays Visit to Tokyo Stock Exchange

OW1601051990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0443 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 KYODO—Radical Soviet reformist leader Boris Yeltsin said Tuesday the Soviet Union should quickly establish a stock market if it is to strengthen its economic reforms. The member of the Supreme Soviet made the remark while visiting what some would call the epitome of capitalism, the Tokyo Stock Exchange [TSE]. Yeltsin arrived in Tokyo Sunday for a 10-day speaking tour which includes Sapporo, Osaka, and Hiroshima.

"Many are scared of the volatility of a market-led economy, but the market controls itself, so I hope Japan can help us establish a market in the Soviet Union," Yeltsin was quoted by TSE officials as saying. Ironically, Yeltsin was visiting the Tokyo market as it was plummeting, in part due to instability in the Soviet Union. "Maybe prices are falling because I am here," he jested, according to the officials.

Kaifu To Meet Yeltsin, PRC's Li Tieying

OW1701043090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0337 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Budapest, Jan. 17 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said here on Tuesday that Li

Tieying, a Political Bureau member of China's Communist Party, will visit Japan in February. Li, who is responsible for ideological matters as head of the State Education Commission, negotiated with Chinese students at the height of the prodemocracy movement last June.

The prime minister, here on the last leg of an 11-day tour of Europe, told Japanese reporters traveling with him that he will also meet Zou Jiahua, minister of China's State Planning Commission, on his return to Tokyo. He is due to arrive home on Thursday. Zou, who arrived in Japan on Tuesday heading a Chinese government delegation, is the first Chinese Government minister to visit Japan since the June 4 crackdown on the prodemocracy movement in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

Kaifu said he will also meet Boris Yeltsin, a reformist member of the Supreme Soviet, who arrived in Japan last Sunday on a 10-day speaking tour. Kaifu said he will send Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada to the United States as his envoy to brief American officials about the outcome of his talks with European leaders.

Kaifu visited West Germany, Belgium, France, Britain, Italy, the Vatican, Poland, and Hungary.

Foreign Ministry Lifts Romanian Travel Advisory

OW1601150790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1412 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 KYODO—Japan on Tuesday lifted a recommendation issued December 22 that its citizens not travel to Romania, the Foreign Ministry said. The lifting of the travel advisory came because civil life in Romania is stabilizing under the new leadership which executed former President Nicolae Ceausescu, ministry officials said. But the Foreign Ministry said it still hopes Japanese citizens will refrain from sightseeing tours to the East European country and exercise appropriate cautions if they must travel there.

Government To Help Establish European Bank

OW1101120390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1116 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 11 KYODO—Japan, the United States and West European countries will agree this year on a plan to establish an international bank to be called the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to assist Eastern Europe, Finance Ministry officials said Thursday. The officials said the bank will open in 1991 at the earliest after the countries concerned sort out the details of the plan. The proposed bank would be capitalized at 15 billion European Currency Units (about 18 billion dollars), they said.

The Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial nations, with the exception of Canada, will each contribute 8.5 percent of the total capital. Their combined shares will account for 51 percent of the total capital, according to a Japanese plan. The Japanese plan will be submitted at the first preparatory meeting in Paris on January 15 and 16. Participants will also discuss where the headquarters should be located and whether the bank should lend to only public institutions or to the private sector as well.

The concept was first proposed by French President Francois Mitterrand at the summit meeting of EC leaders in early December. Though the bank was initially supposed to open in 1992, the planners have decided to advance the date in view of the sweeping political and economic reforms in East Europe.

Bank Governor Comments on Weakening Yen

OW1201081290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0722 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 12 KYODO—Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasushi Mieno said Friday the yen's recent weakening against the dollar, spurred by rumors and speculation, is detrimental to price stability and pledged strong concerted intervention with other major Western nations should the need arise. Mieno, in an address to business leaders here, stressed that price stability is an essential precondition for sustained economic growth in 1990. The chief monetary official therefore emphasized that stepped-up policy cooperation with major industrial nations for currency stability is becoming all the more crucial of late.

In a scaled-up effort to defend the Japanese currency, the central bank has recently boosted its dollar sales, entering the market several times in a single trading day. However, there is a growing view in the market that the yen will continue to be weak against the U.S. unit and other major currencies, especially vis-a-vis the West German mark. Concern over the yen's softness in the medium term was also fanned by domestic and international political worries, many market players said.

At the year's first press conference Wednesday, Mieno openly expressed displeasure over the dollar's renewed strength against its Japanese counterpart. But apparent failure to keep the yen from sagging further despite a recent series of interventions raised some skepticism in the market over the bank's seriousness in combatting a higher dollar.

Mieno, meanwhile, warned in the lecture that increased import costs stemming from the lower yen might prompt corporations to change their price-setting policies, which he said would pose a threat to current price stability. Turning to the outlook for the nation's economy in 1990, Mieno said private-sector capital investment and consumer spending, which have been the two main engines of the economic expansion, will continue to be vigorous and bolster the economy.

Dismissing the possibility of a contraction in the two sectors in 1990, Mieno referred to increased investment by the Japanese financial industry, which has been particularly conspicuous recently. According to a recent survey by the central bank, fixed investment by Japanese

banks, securities firms and other financial institutions is expected to surge 27.4 percent in the fiscal year ending March 31. The aggregate amount comes to some 3 trillion yen, which is comparable to the investment of the country's mammoth electric power industry. Mieno said huge amounts of money pouring into installing computers and modernizing other office equipment in the service-providing sector will help sustain the current robust capital investment into 1990.

As to factors that could reverse the current favorable price trends, Mieno cited tightening labor and product supplies, rising crude oil prices, the weaker yen and high liquidity of funds. In particular, he expressed grave concern about soaring land prices, and urged financial institutions to be prudent in their lending activity. "Any loans eventually linked to speculative investment in land and other real estate should be strictly controlled," Mieno said.

In an effort to maintain the credibility of the central bank, Mieno has repeatedly underscored the importance of preserving its cautious and timely monetary policy to forestall inflationary pressures. "Inflationary expectations have successfully been kept moderate and stable," Mieno said, describing such stable inflation psychology as one of the major factors behind price stability. Stressing the need to take preemptive action, Mieno thus justified a spate of credit-tightening moves on the interest rate front. The central bank raised its official discount rate three times last year to 4.25 percent from the historically low level of 2.50 percent.

Officials React To Drop in Stock Exchange

Mieno on Developments

OW1601083390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0803 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 KYODO—Bank of Japan [BOJ] Governor Yasushi Mieno said Tuesday the most appropriate response to combat speculative dealings affecting the yen's value on currency markets, which he said are based solely on rumors, is coordinated intervention and pledged to continue with decisive dollar sales. Calling recent currency movements "totally speculative," Mieno emphasized that any currency moves which are inconsistent with "the most important economic fundamentals" of the countries concerned would be short-lived. In an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE, the central bank chief also said he is not overly worried about the so-called "triple losses" in the markets—sharp tumbles in bonds and stocks, as well as an unabated downslide of the yen against the U.S. dollar.

He said he is currently watching carefully the course of developments in the financial and capital markets. Mieno said he does not believe that the recent unfavorable developments in the Japanese markets will lead to serious repercussions in overseas markets in a chain reaction. He said he also does not see the current market movements as giving rise to any serious problem, and added any disorderly moves should be avoided. Mieno stressed that a continuation of such unfavorable conditions in the markets would be undesirable.

Commenting on erratic movements in the bond market, which have intensified recently, Mieno said he thinks they could be interpreted as an indication that the market is now entering a "correction phase" to rectify the prolonged precariously high price levels. Mieno said the unstable currency market sentiment has been complicated by a host of rapid developments in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. He said that in such a speculative, rumor-driven market, "speculators are using these external economic and political changes to justify their behavior." Many market players believe the yen's weakness against the West German mark in the wake of ongoing abrupt changes in East-West relations has also undermined the Japanese central bank's efforts to curb the rise of the U.S. currency and stave off an increase in import costs that would fan inflation.

Mieno, however, ruled out any immediate meeting of monetary authorities of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations—the U.S., Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Italy, and Canada. He said he has no information on such meetings and also he does not believe it is necessary to talk about currency issues with other G-7 countries at this point.

On the sagging note on major world stock markets, the top central banker said an adjustment in prices to some extent will be "unavoidable" in view of the present high price levels, though he refused to make any further specific comments.

Also on the volatile bond market, Mieno said in the 40-minute meeting with KYODO that the resultant rise in long-term interest rates might be desirable in light of its effects on the currency front. Narrowing interest rate gaps between short-term and longer-term money market instruments would help stabilize foreign exchange rates in the long run, Mieno said.

Underlining the responsibilities carried by the central bank, Mieno expressed concern about the money supply growth rate, which remains persistently high, hovering around 9 percent on a year-to-year basis in recent months. Indicating his determination to defend the value of the yen and ensure that domestic demand continues to lead noninflationary growth of the economy, Mieno warned against excessive fund liquidity and consequential unhealthy lending activity by banks and other financial institutions. In particular, he said, any such loans eventually linked to speculative land investment should be avoided, and he called for increased prudence by banks. In this connection, he also stressed the need for financial institutions to beef up their risk-management capability and for further "transparency" of the Tokyo financial markets amid globalization and deregulation.

"Once inflationary expectations surface, the situation could soon get out of hand," Mieno said, apparently

referring to the reason for the central bank's action in adjusting interest rate levels. Last year, the central bank raised its official discount rate three times, to the present 4.25 percent per annum from a record low 2.50 percent. Mieno said prices remain within a stable range as a whole, but reaffirmed the bank's intention to keep a careful watch over trends. He dismissed the view that the yen might eventually be redenominated, saying he does not think such a step is necessary.

Mieno reiterated his determination to see that the bank positively responds to rapid developments in the financial world in order to preserve the soundness of financial institutions.

Moriyama Expresses Confidence

OW1601052090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0441 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 16 KYODO—Chief Cabinet Secretary Mayumi Moriyama on Tuesday expressed cautious confidence in the long-term outlook for the Tokyo Stock Exchange which on Friday fell 653.36 yen on the Nikkei Average for the sharpest 1-day drop in over a year. The fall came followed a sharp gain the previous day of 473.62 yen.

"Compared to 2 months ago this is not such a big problem," she said. Last October 16, share prices dropped 647.33 yen in the average in the steepest plunge of the year. But Moriyama added that she wanted to carefully watch market movements. "There is a wait-and-see feeling due to uncertainties about the future," she said. It is not possible to say whether the fluctuations are related to upcoming House of Representative elections, expected in mid-February, Moriyama added.

The general elections will be the first since the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) suffered its first post-war defeat in the House of Councillors last July.

Government Urged To Sell State-Held Assests

OW1101110690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0935 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 11 KYODO—The government should sell its assets, including shares in Japan Railways and Japan Tobacco Inc., to cut its national debt and help balance state finances, a trade group said Thursday. The Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in a report on finance and administrative reforms, also suggested that government-run businesses which could be privately run should be privatized. The sale of their shares would help free the state of debt, the report said. The report cautioned against massive national debt. It said such debts now exceed 200 trillion yen when so-called hidden debts, or law-mandated spending which has been canceled under special legislation, and long-term debts left by the former state-run Japanese National Railways, are included.

The call for caution came against the backdrop of huge outstanding government bonds issued to finance revenue shortfalls and public works. The balance of such bonds, according to the Finance Ministry, is expected to total about 162 trillion yen by the end of fiscal 1989 ending next March, nearly three times larger than the state budget.

The report called for administrative reform through a reduction in numbers of government employees and increased efficiency in the bureaucracy. The report also urged the government to ease its regulations and put an end to the power struggle among ministries over the right to take administrative action.

Sanyo To Export Refrigerator Plant to USSR

OW1001104790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0913 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 10 KYODO—Sanyo Electric Co. said Wednesday that a three-company Japanese consortium led by Sanyo has signed a contract with the Soviet Union to export a refrigerator compressor manufacturing plant to that country. A company official said the deal of about 18 billion yen was signed between Sanyo, Nissho Iwai Corp., Toyo Engineering Corp. and V/O Technopromimport, a Soviet state-owned enterprise importing foreign industrial technology.

The Osaka-based electric maker will provide equipment and know-how for compressor production to a plant in Mazhekijai, Lithuania, which will begin operation in 1992 to annually turn out 2 million compressors used in refrigerators, the official said. Toyo Engineering will do design work and Nissho will handle payment, he said. The deal is intended to increase production of refrigerators in the Soviet Union, where supply of consumer durables cannot keep up with growing demand.

Daihatsu Proposes Scaled-Down Project in Poland

OW1101112090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1011 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Osaka, Jan. 11 KYODO—Daihatsu Motor Co. has proposed to Poland's state-owned automaker to start with sharply reduced output under their joint car production plan to break an impasse in their deadlocked talks, Daihatsu officials said Thursday. The new plan, shown to Fabryka Samochodow Osbowych (FSO), calls for assembling 5,000 to 6,000 units of the 1,300 CC Charade model annually, with all parts supplied from Japan, and boosting output gradually to the original target of 120,000, the officials said. It also envisages an initial investment of 1.5 billion yen against the originally planned total cost of 120 billion yen, thus reducing investment risk. The curtailed plan will make it easier for Daihatsu to obtain Japanese Government lending, the officials said, referring to a 500 million dollar (73 billion yen) credit line earlier proposed by the Export-Import Bank of Japan to help Poland's economic reform.

"I think it is more realistic to get the project started anyhow and then expand it gradually," Daihatsu Chairman Tomonaru Eguchi said. "I think the new plan has made it easier to get the needed official credit," he added.

Given the past process of negotiations, the new offer is likely to be accepted by FSO, and production could start as early as next year, industry sources said. Under the revised plan, output will be increased to 10,000 in 1992. The ultimate goal is to produce 120,000 annually with all components produced in Poland, the Daihatsu officials said.

Superconducting Magnets To Power Prototype Ship

OW1101105690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0830 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 11 KYODO—Scientists at the Japan Foundation for Shipbuilding Advancement in Tsukuba, Ibaraki Prefecture, are constructing a small prototype ship that is propelled through water by superconducting magnets. Superconducting magnets used as a propulsion system for ships on the high seas should theoretically create a cleaner marine environment and reduce reliance on petroleum.

Scientists hope to see such a propulsion system powering small ships, offshore structures, deep-sea diving vessels and oceanographic survey vessels in the future. "The practical use of these vessels is still some time off, but with a breakthrough in high-temperature superconductors it can be realized," says Setsuo Takezawa, general manager of the foundation's electromagnetic propulsion division. The foundation, electrical component makers and shipbuilders have already spent about 5 billion yen on development of the propulsion ship since the start of the project in 1985.

The ship, to be called the "Yamato-1," will be 30 meters long, 10 meters across and will have a displacement of 185 tons. It will have a 3,800-kilowatt main generator and hold three crew members and 12 passengers.

The low-temperature, superconductive electromagnetic propulsion system uses magnetohydrodynamic devices, which work as electromagnetic pumps to propel the ship forward. The propulsion system will be able to propel the ship at a speed of eight knots. The electromagnetic pumps contain six seawater-jetting ducts, built into the hull of the ship. Each duct holds two electrodes and has two electromagnets mounted on the outside cooled by liquid helium. The propulsion system works when a magnetic field is formed in the seawater in the ducts by the electromagnets and electric current is applied at right angles to the magnetic field. The crossing of electric current through the strong magnetic field pushes the seawater out of the ducts.

The "Yamato-1" will utilize an internal magnetic field system where electromagnetism is generated in the seawater within the ducts. Hence the magnetic fields are confined in the ducts to prevent any negative impact on the marine environment, electrical components of the ship, or the health of passengers.

The foundation plans to carry out tests to prove the vessel's seaworthiness and practical ability in the oceans sometime this year. The concept of electromagnetic propulsion using superconductive magnets was first proposed by W.A. Rice of the United States in 1961. The Argonne National Laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy is also working with superconductive magnets to power underwater vessels.

Mongolia

5,000 Demonstrate for Democracy in Ulaanbaatar

HK1501113090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1056 GMT 15 Jan 90

[By Denis Hiault]

[Text] Beijing, Jan 15 (AFP)—Some 5,000 demonstrators have braved temperatures of minus 20 degrees (minus four degrees Fahrenheit) in the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator to demand democracy and the trial of a former Communist Party chief, witnesses said Monday.

The protest Sunday was the third since mid-December in Mongolia, the second-oldest socialist republic after the Soviet Union. Like the previous demonstrations, it was organized by the Mongolian Democratic Union (MDU), created last month by intellectuals and young people.

Witnesses reached by telephone from Beijing said the authorized protest was larger and more daring than the others, and although demonstrators challenged the government there was no intervention by the authorities.

Banners reading "Down with bureacracy" and "Speed up democratization" were unfurled, diplomats here said, adding that such unprecedented slogans were barely conceivable in Mongolia in the recent past.

For the first time, some speakers publicly questioned the political system "inherited from Stalin," criticized the dominant role of the communist Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP) and denounced the regime's top officials—despite the party's secretary general, Jambyn Batmonh, being seen as an early advocate of "il tod," the local version of the Soviet policy of glasnost.

They also demanded removal of a bronze statue of a very Napoleonic-looking Stalin that has gazed over the heart of the capital since the People's Republic of Mongolia was formed in 1921, three years after the Russian Revolution.

Another demand was the formation of a multi-party system as well as the trial of Yumjagin Tsedenbal, who has been living in Moscow since being removed from

office in 1984. He has been held responsible for the country's 32-year stagnation, earning the sobriquet of "Mongol Brezhnev."

The MDU has also demanded free elections, greater respect for human rights, an end to privileges and the holding of a referendum on the introduction of market reforms in the economy.

The demands have been accompanied by increasing nationalism marked by the rehabilitation of Genghis Khan, 13th-century founder of the Mongol nation and long presented in Soviet-inspired books as a bloody and savage conquerer.

With the list of grievances growing, the MDU picked up 60,000 members in the first month after its formation, threatening to take power quickly. Local observers have said the group was created with the toleration, if not direction, of high officials, and its formation has only highlighted the need for reforms that the MPRP has recognized over the last three years.

Mr. Batmonh himself last month told 360 Mongolian parliamentarians during a plenum of the MPRP's committee that he supported speeding up the reform process. "The needed economic reform comes by way of political reform," he said repeatedly.

But Mr. Batmonh must deal with the reluctant old guard, which opposes removing the Stalin statue, and the impatient younger generation, analysts said. It has been the young who have openly hoped for change in the immense republic, three-fourths covered by desert, squeezed between China and the Soviet Union and inhabited by two million mostly nomadic people.

Mongolia has always been seen in Moscow's orbit, and reformists have been hoping that, having inherited Stalinism from their Soviet neighbor, they might now quickly adopt glasnost and perestroyka, the Soviet catchwords for openness and reform. Diplomats said there were encouraging signs.

Mongolia began renewing economic ties with China a year ago, after 30 years of strained relations caused by the Sino-Soviet split. At the same time, it has shown no hurry to seek political rapprochement with the hardline government in Beijing since the Chinese army's bloody crackdown on the pro-democracy movement here in June.

Meanwhile, it has just posthumously withdrawn from Nicolae Ceausescu, the Romanian dictator overthrown and shot by a firing squad last month, the Order of Sukhe Bator, Mongolia's highest honor. The distinction had been awarded to Mr. Ceausescu in January 1988.

Stalin's Statue Torn Down at Officers' Club

OW1701031290 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] By the decision of the Political Board of the Mongolian People's Army [MPA], and with due account of public demand, a monument to Joseph Stalin, which stood in front of the Mongolian Officers' Mess in Ulaanbaatar, has been torn down.

North Korea

453d Military Armistice Commission Meeting Held

SK1701045590 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0214 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] The 453d meeting of the Military Armistice Commission [MAC] is being held at present in Panmunjom upon our proposal.

As has already been reported, on 4 January our side requested to the U.S. side that this meeting be held on 9 January. However, the U.S. side unjustly deferred this meeting as long as 8 days after all.

At the meeting, our side proposed to the U.S. side matters concerning easing tension on the Korean peninsula and providing an advantageous environment for North-South dialogue.

Maj. Gen. Choe Ui-ung, senior member of our side, stressing the new save-the-nation proposal which the great leader put forward in his New Year address this year, stated: The national division that began in the 1940's has been continuing for as long as 45 years up to the present time, entering the 1990's. This is a tragedy that should never be tolerated from the standpoint of both national independence and any other country's independence. One who loves justice and peace and has reason would never turn away from this severe pain and sorrow of national division.

The government of our republic put forward a new save-the-nation proposal to tear down the wall of division between the North and the South and to implement free visits and total openness in order to make this year, which begins the 1990's, a year of historic change and to open the door for the fatherland reunification. It proposed a consultative meeting between the authorities of the highest levels of the North and the South and the heads of political parties to discuss this proposal.

The senior member of our side stated that since the MAC has the mission and duty to prevent the recurrence of war on the Korean peninsula and to render help to the peaceful settlement of the Korean question, it should give due attention to our epochal save-the-nation proposal and make efforts to create an advantageous environment and atmosphere for its realization.

He continued: We think that our proposal to halt the war exercises involving the danger of nuclear war, which was

put forward at the 452d MAC meeting, would create an advantageous environment and condition for the realization of our new save-the-nation proposal. The proposal that our side put forward at the last meeting was, firstly, not to conduct any military exercises mobilizing nuclear weapons and the equipment capable of loading or carrying nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula and its surrounding waters from 1 January 1990; secondly, not to conduct any large-scale military exercises with the participation of a division-size unit or larger on the Korean peninsula and its surrounding waters; and thirdly, not to conduct a joint military exercise against the other side not only on the Korean peninsula and its surrounding waters but overseas as well.

If these steps are taken, it will certainly help realize our new save-the-nation proposal and create an advantageous atmosphere for North-South dialogue. However, the U.S. side did not respond to this positive proposal but made an official announcement that the "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercise will be conducted from the end of January to the end of April bringing into South Korea numerous troops and nuclear war means from the U.S. mainland, Hawaii, Japan, and Guam. This is an act that runs counter to the alleviation of tension and North-South dialogue, and a challenge to our sincere efforts to solve the problem. The senior member of our side stressed that it is far from understandable why the U.S. side continues the "Team Spirit" war exercises, which began in the 1970's and which was characterized by tension and confrontation, in the 1990's as well, in which the general trend is detente and negotiation.

The senior member of our side indicated: Under a powder-reeking situation in which bullets and shells burst, dialogue cannot be held freely, and even if dialogue is held, a substantial dialogue cannot be expected. If dialogue is to be held for peace and reunification, why should such a war exercise as the "Team Spirit" exercise be conducted? Furthermore, the "Team Spirit 90" war exercise is also an obstacle to removing the barrier between the North and the South and thus, to realizing free traval and total openness between them. This is why our side holds that to realize the new save-the-nation proposal—and thus to create conditions and an atmosphere favorable for the North-South dialogue that will bear fruit soon—both sides alike should not stage war exercises which run counter to this.

Since the U.S. side has also stressed on many occasions the importance of peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and the importance of North-South dialogue, there is no reason whatsoever why it cannot do so. Not only all of the Korean people, but also the people of the world now have deep interest in our epochal save-the-nation proposal for reunification and North-South dialogue which is being vigorously held. They also sincerely want to see that due success is achieved in this.

Such being the situation, if both our sides of the MAC take steps to alleviate military tension in response to their mission, this will give great joy to the people. However, if a war exercise such as the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise is staged with the mobilization of numerous military troops and nuclear arms and equipment, without yielding any return in terms of dialogue and negotiations, a grave obstacle will be created on the road to dialogue and negotiations, and the people will be greatly disappointed.

The frequent gathering of clouds will eventually bring about rain. Likewise, the frequent conduct of a nuclear war exercise will eventually bring about a nuclear war. Regardless of whether they live in the North or the South, our people do not want this. For Americans as well, no good can come of a nuclear war breaking out on the Korean peninsula.

To completely prevent the danger of a nuclear war, nuclear weapons should be removed and the Korean peninsula should become a nuclear-free zone. Since the U.S. side today does not agree with making the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free zone at once, our side, at present, proposes to take at least a step to suspend war exercises which involve the danger of war. If such an immediate step is taken, an atmosphere of nuclear war can be alleviated and mutual misunderstanding and feelings of confrontation can be greatly lessened. We deem it a process of creating trust between the two sides to do so.

Saying that our side's proposal has fully taken the U.S. side's assertions into consideration, our side's senior member stressed: When the agenda items to alleviate tension were discussed last February, the U.S. side proposed the problem of military exercises as an agenda item. The problem of creating trust also includes the issue of military exercises. Therefore, we can say that both sides alike are interested in the problem related to military exercises. They have generally the same opinion that the problem related to military exercises should be solved in the MAC. What is left now is for both sides to work out a concrete agreement on this important problem through discussions.

Our side's senior member said that the U.S. side has talked about detente and negotiations on many occasions in the past and that if this is sincere, it should immediately cancel the plan for the "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercise and should affirmatively respond to the discussions of our side's proposal for alleviating tension. The meeting continues.

Parliamentary Chairman Proposes Talks With South

SK1701094290 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0800 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Letter from Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Parliamentary Group of the DPRK, to chairman of the South Korean Parliamentary Group on 15 January—read by announcer]

[Text] To Kim Chae-sun, chairman of the Parliamentary Group of the Republic of Korea:

Recently, Pierre Cornion, general secretary of the International Parliamentarians Union [IPU], expressed his wish to hold the 84th IPU Congress in Pyongyang and said he thinks that if the congress were held in Pyongyang, this would provide an atmosphere favorable to the cause of our national reunification. In connection with this, we informed the general secretary of our readiness to accept the holding of the congress in Pyongyang if this congress is helpful to the works of the organization and to achieving the cause of our national reunification, even to a slight degree. We also expressed our hope that we will organize a single delegation of the North and the South to attend the IPU congresses beginning with its 84th Congress slated for autumn this year.

That we expressed the hope that we participate in the congress of this organization as a single delegation of the North and the South proceeded from the ardent desire to contribute to achieving the national reunification which our people are ardently aspiring to. In fact, if the North and the South reach an agreement in principle to participate in the 11th Asian Games as a single team through North-South sports talks, we think that if we both want it, the issue of participating in the congress of the IPU as a single delegation of the North and the South will be easily realized.

If we form a single delegation between the North and the South and attend the congress of the IPU, our people's common efforts for peace on the Korean peninsula and reunification will be demonstrated to the entire world, and we will have a broad range of support and praise not only from our people and but also from the people of the world. Proceeding from this, we earnestly propose to your side to hold talks between the parliamentary groups of the North and the South to discuss the issue of forming a single delegation of the North and the South to participate in the IPU congress.

We express the hope that the delegates of the parliamentary groups of the North and the South sit face to face at an early date to discuss this issue so that an agreement be reached on as soon as possible before the 83th congress roughly slated for April.

We think it good that the delegations of the parliamentary groups of the North and the South be composed of 5 delegates from each side respectively led by vice chairman of the parliamentary group of each side and the date of talks be 7 February. The Tongilgak and the House of Peace can be designated as the venue of talks. I expect the affirmative response from your side to this.

[Signed] Yang Hyong-sop, Chairman of the DPRK Parliamentary Group
[Dated] 15 January 1990

News Analyst Appeals for Positive Response

SK1501054090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0524 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 15 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities should respond to our proposal for a North-South top-level conference in which the heads of the authorities and leaders of political parties will take part, says NODONG SINMUN in a commentary Monday.

The news analyst says:

The joint meeting of representatives of the government and political parties of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea which was held on January 9 adopted a letter addressed to the head of the authorities and leaders of political parties of South Korea and decided to send two liaison officials authorized by the premier of the Administration Council to Seoul to directly convey the letter to the parties to the negotiation. But this was not realized owing to the opposition of the South side and the letter was handed over to the South side at Panmunjom.

The step taken at the joint meeting is a most justifiable and reasonable one to realize the new save-the-nation proposal put forward by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and thus pull down the barrier of division and open a new phase for independent and peaceful reunification.

As long as the concrete wall bisecting the territory of the country are [as received] left intact, it is impossible to realize free travel and complete opening or to resolve the question of the country's reunification by pooling the strength and wisdom of the nation.

Only when the cursed concrete wall is pulled down and free travel and complete opening are realized is it possible to remove the misunderstanding and distrust long pent up between the North and the South and deepen understanding and trust and promote national reconciliation and unity, rejoin the broken bonds of the nation and open a broad way of independent and peaceful reunification by bringing together the strength of the whole nation.

The momentous historical step of removing the barrier of division and opening the door of reunification is rather a politial matter to be resolved by a decision of responsible politicians of both sides, than an administrative matter to be handled by authorities of the North and the South.

For the politicians in the North and the South to participate in the conference to discuss the crucial matter of the nation, representing the cherished desire of the entire fellow countrymen, is a sacred national duty and a natural demand of national history.

If the responsible politicians of South Korea truly want to resolve the question of the country's reunification on the basis of national idea and conscience, they must come out without delay to the negotiating table to consult and solve the problem of pulling down the barrier of division and realizing free travel and complete opening, regardless of idea and system, [words indistinct] and assertion, party interest and strategy.

The South Korean authorities have never let a chance pass by without advocating "opening" and "reunification" and welcomed the opening of barrier of division in another country. If this is true, they must give up the anti-communist seclusionist policy antagonizing fellow countrymen and prove this by actually pulling down the concrete wall, the symbol of confrontation and division.

If they truly have the intention to reunify the country, they should not hesitate to respond to our proposal for negotiation to consult and solve the problem of demolishing the barrier of division and realizing free travel and full opening but take an appropriate step and ensure a necessary condition for arranging a preliminary contact for a successful convocation of the conference.

SKNDF Sends New Year Message to Kim Il-song

SK1201013190 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2108 GMT 31 Dec 89

[Congratulatory message from the Central Committee of the South Korea National Democratic Front, SKNDF, to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song on the occasion of the new year, 1990]

[Text] To the great leader, the sun of the nation President Kim Il-song:

The eighties which accelerated the anti-U.S. march for independence under the banner of the great chuche has come to a close and the morning of the first year of the long-awaited nineties which promises new days of independence, democracy, and reunification has begun.

On this historic morning which is filled with hope, the Central Committee of SKNDF sends respectful greetings of warmest congratulations and wishes for long life with endless admiration from all the vanguards and patriotic people of various strata of the South side to the great sun of the nation President Kim Il-song who is being consistently revered and followed by the whole nation.

Last year was a brilliant year of progress in which the correctness and truth in the cause of socialism on the North side of the fatherland and the inevitability of its historic victory gained confidence at home and abroad. The year 1989 was also a significant year in which the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students, a noteworthy event in national history, was splendidly celebrated amidst blessings from this era.

During the last year which was filled with victory and glory, the respected president led the revolution and construction on the one road of ever-victorious struggle with his extraordinary wisdom and distinguished leadership, opening a new chapter in the development of national history and human history.

Since the respected president is being upheld as the great leader, last year, the guiding might of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and militant function of the government of the republic was extraordinarily strengthened. The invincible cohesion and unity of the chuche Korea in which the leader, party, and the masses are united as one was also firmly strengthened.

The North Korean brothers are holding the great president high at the top place of the party and nation and are vigorously moving forward according to the banner of modeling all of society after the chuche idea. They gave new impetus again to the grand socialist march movement, proudly displaying last year as a year of engraving heroic struggle and feats which brought the eighties to a close.

All the people of the nation are accelerating to vigorously light the combatant flames of the great battle for construction all year round which fulfills the strategic plan and intention of the respected president. As a result, sincere results of completing the construction of key industries including the construction of the first phase of the world's leading Sunchon vinalon complex was completed and building of great monumental edifices that display the courage of the WPK such as Kwangbok street and 1 May stadium were launched magnificently. These have decisive significance in carrying out the third Seven Year Plan.

Through the heroic struggle of the Northern brothers who are endlessly faithful to the call of the party and the leader, the nation's economic might was further strengthened and the appearance of the chuche fatherland which is being developed and changed as everyday passes by was further elucidated.

Due to the wise leadership of the great president, our brothers in the North crushed the enemy's antirevolutionary struggle ignoring the anti-DPRK commotion made by the U.S. imperialists and their puppets, which was more frantic than ever. Therefore, they were able to firmly safeguard the dignity and honor of the socialist Korea.

The 13th World Festival of Youth and Students—which was splendidly celebrated while the whole nation was in a vortex of deep emotion and happiness and amidst the overfulfilled warm congratulations of the world's progressive masses—was a great unprecented political festival; a similar event, identical in its political and ideological level and scale and in its organizational spirit and form, could not be found earlier. This festival displayed to the whole world the invincible might of the chuche Korea in which the leader, party, and the masses are united as one and the true superiority of the chuche socialist system in which it brilliantly embodied the independent, self-reliant, and self-defense line.

The splendid reality of the Northern half of Korea, which is growing daily under the banner of the great chuche idea and socialism, eloquently proves that only when we highly respect and follow the prominent great leader can the party, state, and people be great; the unity and solidarity of the whole party, whole country, and entire people be further consolidated; and politics, economics, and culture splendidly come into bloom.

Last year, too, the great leader president clearly indicated the direction of the times on the basis of a profound analysis of and penetration into the antagonism and struggle between progress and reaction in the international arena. The great leader personally carried on energetic external activities, thus, making immortal contributions to the human historical cause for the development of socialism, for independence against imperialism and for anti-nuke peace.

Genuinely, the beloved and respected President Kim Il-song, who is both a leading figure in ideology and theory and a master in leadership, is a great leader who has continuously achieved colossal gains before the times and the people. In addition, he is conspicuously the greatest man of the times.

Great progress was made in the South Korean people's transformation movement for anti-U.S. national salvation last year.

The last year has been a time when the SKNDF and the patriotic people of all walks of life put their unchangeable faith and will in independence, sovereignty, and peaceful reunification into bold practice. And, 1989 has been a year of sacred struggle which was adorned by spreading the movement of anti-U.S. and antidictatorial national salvation on the organized and mass basis.

People of all walks of life, being keenly aware of the fact that they cannot genuinely shape their destiny and national future unless the U.S. domination and intervention are terminated as soon as possible, have continuously dealt heavy blows to the U.S. imperialist colonial domination by directing spearheads to the struggle against the U.S. imperialist aggression forces under the banner of independence and by kindling flames to withdraw the U.S. imperialists and nuclear weapons and to smash their pressure for opening markets.

Under the bold trends of transformational movement and of anti-U.S. independence in particular, people of all walks of life took off the current military dictatorship's guise of democracy with turbulent winds of antifascist and democratic struggle. In addition, they demonstrated to the entire world the color of the so-called Sixth Republic and firmly directed the struggle to liquidate the leftovers of the Fifth Republic in order to bury the dictatorship.

The popular masses of all walks of life, who have been deeply inspired by the fatherland reunification proposal put forward by the great leader in his last New Year address, launched an all-people struggle to realize the great consensus of the nation by tearing down the breakwater against communism and the North, and thereby recorded a new chapter in the history of movement for independence and reunification.

The visit to the North by Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, which drew attention at home and abroad, and the participation in the Pyongyang festival by Yim Su-kyong, delegate of the National Council of University Students Representatives, which is a vanguard organization of one million students, made a great breakthrough in the breakwater against communism and the North. In addition, this was an historic event of unprecedentedly spreading the trends of reunification through alliance with communism and alliance with the North among the people of all walks of life. Moreover, this demonstrated our people's firm will that the nation is one and the fatherland is one as well.

Extremely alarmed at the fact that our people's aspiration for reunification is boldly growing like an ocean and that the anti-U.S. struggle for independence has been turbulently launched, the U.S. imperialists and their stooges run wild to aggravate the fascist political situation dominated by security affairs to the highest pitch, to smash left-wing forces, and to brandish blood bayonets. They, however, cannot check our people's bold advance toward independence, democracy, and reunification.

Even under a frantic political situation dominated by security affairs created by the colonial fascist forces, people of all walks of life have been further awakened and organized. In addition, the anti-U.S. and antidictatorial movement for reunification was not crushed but launched more deeply and widely.

In particular, the great chuche idea, the genuine truth indicating the way of shaping the destiny of the nation and people, was briskly disseminated last year, with the result that the consciousness of reunification through alliance with communism has grown immensely intense among the people of broad strata along with the consciousness of the anti-U.S. independence. That became a great impetus to the transformation movement and the reunification movement.

Our SKNDF, cherishing the chuche idea as an ideology of guidance, advances along the direction as directed by chuche, thereby clearly putting forward the direction and destination on the basis of roles of the popular masses; firmly sticking to the position as a patriotic vanguard unit at the van of the popular masses; broadening its support foundation among the popular masses; and redoubling a militant spirit and vitality.

The chuche idea of the great leader President Kim Il-song is a bright lighthouse illuminating the future road of the SNKDF and the people of all walks of life. In addition, it is an ever-victorious banner which leads the movement for independence, democracy, and reunification on a track of victory.

Because the beloved and respected President lives, and because the banner of the immortal chuche idea is vigorously unfurling at the van of the SKNDF, stored in the South is a victory for social transformation movement and for the cause of independence and reunification. At this solemn time when we look at the new year with confidence, our vanguard fighters and people of all walks of life are seething with fighting spirit to

embroider the first year of the 1990's by opening a decisive phase in the struggle for independence, democracy, and reunification.

In the new year, we will noticeably promote the work of awakening and organizing the people of all walks of life, holding ever higher the banner of the immortal chuche idea, and thus bring the anti-U.S. national salvation movement with people as the leading force to the highest tide ever, smash the two Koreas plot of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges by a nationwide grand march toward independence and reunification, and open a new broad avenue for reunification through confederation.

No force in the world can check the grand march forward of the SKNDF and the people of all walks of life desirous of marking the bright 1990's as historic annals of achieving reunification of the fatherland.

The SKNDF Central Committee, on behalf of the ardent desire of our all vanguard fighters and the patriotic people of all walks of life, wishes the long life and good health of the great President Kim Il-song who is a peerless patriot in the world, legendary hero, and son of the nation.

[Signed] The SKNDF Central Committee
[Dated] 1 January 1990 in Seoul

Youth Pledge Support for Kim Il-song Tasks

SK1501045390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0422 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 15 (KCNA)—100,000 Pyongyang youth and students Sunday held a parade and a meeting of loyalty with a single heart to display the honour of a vanguard and shock brigade in implementing the militant tasks put forward by the great leader President Kim Il-song in his new year address and the resolution of the 17th plenary meeting of the 6th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Read on the faces of the youth and students marching through the streets of the capital in high spirit led by the banner bearing the portrait of the great leader and the flag of our party from the plazas in front of the tower of the chuche idea, the arch of triumph, the Pyongyang railway station and the Pyongyang indoor stadium were the firm determination to powerfully demonstrate the heroic spirit of the Korean youths who have grown up in the bosom of our party by effecting unheard-of miracles and innovations in the worthwhile onward movement of the 90s.

The Kim Il-song square was crowded with 100,000 youths and students.

Present at the meeting were Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president; Chong Chun-ki, Alternate Member of Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice-premier of the Administration Council; Choe Tae-pok, secretary of the WPK Central Committee; and others.

A report of Choe Yong-hae, chairman of the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea [LSWYK], was followed by speeches of youth delegates of various segments at the meeting.

The reporter and speakers noted that the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song, in his new year address and at the 17th plenary meeting of the 6th Central Committee of the party, reviewed the achievements in the 1980s in which our people won a great victory, united as one man around the party, and set forth militant tasks facing our party and people in the 1990s and this year, its first year.

Saying that dear Comrade Kim Chong-il called the young people of the rising generation to stand in the van of the grand struggle to make the 90s shine as a historical decade, the reporter and speakers called upon them to repay the great love and trust of our party with loyalty.

In order to adorn the 90s with historical victories, they noted, all the young people should more dynamically wage a drive for the creation of "a new speed in the 90s" and conduct the movement for the "youth torch prize for the fulfilment of the third seven-year plan", with the burning zeal to be young heroes in the worthwhile struggle to add lustre to the era of the workers' party.

Members of the LSWY [League of Socialist Working Youth] and other young men and women should make an active contribution to the chuche-orientation, modernisation and scientisation of the national economy by introducing invention, innovation and rationalisation proposals through the "youth march for science and technology" and study hard, saving every minute and every second, to occupy the fortress of modern sciences, they stressed, adding:

A drive for increased production and economy is an important way of stepping up socialist economic construction. All the LSWY members and other youths should conduct various innovation movements to produce more and better with less labour force, materials and equipment in the same spirit and stamina as the youth people of the 50s displayed in effecting the great upsurge of Chollima in socialist construction in hearty response to the resolution of the December 1956 plenary meeting of the party Central Committee.

The meeting adopted a letter of resolution.

At the end of the meeting the participants marched in array through the streets, singing songs and shouting slogans.

No's New Year News Conference Criticized

SK1701050490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0441 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 17 (KCNA)—The traitor No Tae-u, at the "New Year press conference," pretended to be willing to do something for the people, stringing out such honeyed words as "guarantee of people's life and public peace" and "social welfare."

His "commitments to social welfare" this time, like all his earlier "commitments" are counterfeits intended to conceal his traitorous color and lull the discontent and resistance of the people, declares NODONG SINMUN today.

Recalling that the traitor No Tae-u ignored the stabilisation of people's life and social welfare last year while disbursing 2,200 million dollars for the maintenance of the U.S. forces present in South Korea and squandering money in the buildup of repressive forces, the news analyst says:

He only bound the people in chain to a brutal "security-oriented rule" unprecedented in history, savagely brandished sword at workers demanding a higher pay, and pulled down plank hovels of millions of poor people, leaving them without shelter. This is what No Tae-u means by "stabilisation of people's life" and "social welfare."

For the traitor No, who knows nothing but sword-brandishing and treachery, to juggle with the word "social welfare" before the people is as ridiculous as promising to bring a rose into bloom in a cesspool.

With no honeyed "commitment" can the No group pull the wool over the eyes of the awakened people or evade reponsibility for its crime in driving the economy to bankruptcy and deteriorating the people's life.

No's Remarks on Labor Denounced

SK1601045690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0436 GMT 16 Jan 90

["Outburst To Stifle Labor Movement"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 16 (KCNA)—The traitor No Tae-u in his "New Year press conference" screamed that the South Korean economy was now experiencing "stupendous difficulties and pains" and ascribed this to the disputes and struggle for wage hike by workers, threatening that he would "sternly deal with" them in the future.

This revealed the fascist scheme to shift their own responsibility for the economic crisis on to the workers and stifle the just struggle of workers for the right to existence at the point of the bayonet, notes NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today.

The news analyst says:

The alarming economic crisis in South Korea today has not resulted from the disputes caused by workers. [Word indistinct] inevitable offspring of the criminal acts of the U.S. imperialists who have reduced the South Korean economy to a colonial dependent economy and intensified plunder and the flunkeyist treacheries of the puppets who have left the economic arteries to them and pursued a submissive economic policy.

The very ones who have driven the economy to bankruptcy are distorting fact, ascribing it to the workers' demand for higher wages. [word indistinct] a crafty ruse to conceal their own crime and dull the class awakening and fighting spirit of the workers and intensify repression and plunder of them and thereby maintain the brutal military fascist dictatorship.

It is natural under all circumstances for the working masses forced to hard toil, bled to white under oppression and exploitation, to rise up in a struggle for a life worth humanity. It can never be an object of repression.

'Anti-U.S., Anti-Government' Protests in South

SK1601105490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 16 (KCNA)—Some 700 students staged a fierce "anti-U.S., anti-government" demonstration in Seoul on January 14 denouncing the No Tae-u military fascist clique for blocking a memorial service on the 3rd anniversary of the death of student Pak Chong-chol, according to reports.

They attempted to gather at the Myongdong cathedral in Seoul to honor the memory of Pak who was tortured to death at the anti-communist room of the puppet police headquarters on January 14, 1987, after being arrested by the military hooligans for his fight for independence, democracy and reunification. The fascist clique, however, set in motion a large force of riot police, which sealed off the Myongdong cathedral and fired tear gas canisters at students who were approaching it.

Enraged at this, the students answered the police action with a demonstration, chanting "drive out Yankees" and "down with No Tae-u."

They demanded the resignation of the traitor No Tae-u, the punishment of the traitor Chon Tu-hwan and withdrawal of the U.S. troops over 43,000 strong from South Korea.

In the meantime, about 300 protesters occupied the road around Kilum-dong, Songbuk district, Seoul, and held a demonstration. They attacked a police booth there to show their resentment at the military fascist clique which blocked the memorial service for Pak Chong-chol.

Many citizens enthusiastically encouraged the demonstration of the students and strongly protested the police crackdown.

When the demonstration of the students was at its height in the street, about 150 members of five dissident organisations including the Council of the Movement of Families for the Practice of Democratisation held a memorial service on the 3rd anniversary of the death of student Pak after entering the compound of the Myong-dong cathedral, breaking through the strict police cordon.

Earlier, on the 13th, students in Kwangju staged a demonstration in protest against the outrages of the fascist clique in blocking the memorial service for the late student Pak.

The protesters denounced the crimes of the traitor No Tae-u in patronizing the "Fifth Republic" and condemned the deceptive drama of "liquidation of the Fifth Republic legacies" by the ruling and opposition parties.

On the same day Pak Chong-chol's family and some 100 dissidents went to the Moran park in Kyonggi Province and held a memorial service before the gravestone of the deceased.

Wall at MDL 'Symbol of National Division'

SK1601104690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 16 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song said in his new year address:

"The concrete wall is a symbol of national division and of North-South confrontation. Keeping the barrier the like of which cannot be found in any other country of the world is a disgrace to our nation."

Along the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] which had been just a line separating Korea into the North and the South, a concrete wall tighter than a borderline was built. Being a symbol of national division and North-South confrontation, it is the greatest disgrace to our nation.

The wall which was built in the area south of the MDL cutting across the country at its waist extends 240 kilometres from East to West. It is 5 to 8 metres high, 10 to 19 metres wide at the bottom and 3 to 7 metres wide in the upper part.

Trucks, armoured vehicles and new-type tanks are running on the wall one on the heels of the other and the dark muzzles of the heavy weapons of the pillboxes at intervals of 70 to 90 metres threaten to spit fire at our side any moment.

This disgraceful wall without an equal in any other country of the world was built by the U.S. imperialists who are trying to freeze the division of Korea and create "two Koreas" and by the South Korean traitorous group which is trying to remain in power indefinitely with their backing.

It is a product of the U.S. imperialists' divisive policy towards Korea and a legacy of the South Korean military fascist clique's treacherous policy.

It was in 1977 that the puppet clique began building the concrete wall in the area south of the MDL on the instructions of the U.S. imperialists.

The puppet clique, instigated by the U.S. imperialists, nullified the July 4 joint statement published by the North and the South on the basis of the three principles of national reunification—independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity—even before the ink on it was dry, and incited confrontation between the North and the South and suppressed figures of various circles desirous of reunification by fabricating various kinds of "incidents". At the same time, they began building the reinforced concrete wall in a bid to dampen the people's desire for reunification.

At that time the South Korean puppet clique, afraid of the people's protest, launched a false propaganda, claiming that it was a project of "long wall" against erosion to prevent flood damages. However, their false propaganda was short-lived and it was exposed to be "a wall of division".

When the South Korean people's protest against its building grew louder, the puppet clique tried to justify their criminal acts, describing it as "a strategic wall" for keeping off "threat from the north". And they forcibly mobilized hundreds of thousands of puppet army soldiers and the same number of civilians in the project.

The South Korean puppets themselves confessed that the building of the concrete wall was not to cope with "threat from the North".

In June 1978 when the building of the wall was at its height the traitor Chon Tu-hwan, the then commander of the First Infantry Division of the puppet army told officers of his division which was mobilized in the project:

"Why are we building this concrete setup? We are now declaring to the outside world that it is designed to keep off 'threat of southward invasion'. But this is a camouflage.

"It is not for coping with 'threat of southward invasion' but for 'internal security'.

"In other words, it is to dampen the earnest desire of the people for reunification, namely, to stem the rising tide of reunification. By building high the concrete wall, we will dishearten those longing for reunification and make them give up their desire."

He further said:

"The royal family of ancient Egypt in Africa made obedient slaves erect pyramids. But we are going to build the concrete wall for division as early as possible with the mobilization of stupid soldiers to horrify those crying for 'reunification' and secure 'internal security'".

In order to hasten the building of the reinforced concrete wall, the South Korean fascist clique drove out puppet army soldiers and people to its construction site by every brutal means. In this course many soldiers and people were killed by accidents and beating a crippled in this primitive project. [as received]

The puppet clique hurled a great amount of cement, reinforcing iron and other materials into the projects in addition to manpower of astronomical figure.

When people of millions of families were starving, shivering and dying in cold without shelter the South Korean traitor clique spent taxes running into 3 billion won squeezed from the people in building the long reinforced concrete wall aimed at permanent division in the area south of the Military Demarcation Line cutting across the country.

Nevertheless, the South Korean rulers claim that "there is no concrete wall at all" in South Korea, attempting to conceal the wall which really exists. This is a challenge to and mockery of the entire compatriots who desire an earlier reunification.

The South Korean authorities tell this lie, frightened at the demand of the nation to pull down the hateful concrete wall, a symbol of North-South confrontation and national division. This proves that their outcries for "opening" and "reunification" are sham.

If they truly want reunification, they should, first of all, pull down the concrete wall south of the Military Demarcation Line, not crying for "opening" and "reunification" only in words.

KPA General Appeals for Removing 'Wall'

SK1401094990 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0000 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] A news conference with domestic and foreign reporters, arranged by the Foreign Ministry on the subject of removing the concrete wall built in the South side's area in the Military Demarcation Line [MDL], was held in the People's Palace of Culture on 11 January.

A portrait of the great leader of our party and our people, Comrade Kim Il-song, was respectfully placed at the front in the conference hall.

Reporters of newspapers, news agencies, and broadcasting stations in Pyongyang participated in the news conference. Also present there were functionaries from the press offices of various foreign embassies in our country, and foreign correspondents.

At the news conference, Kim Yang-kwon, Major General of the Korean People's Army [KPA], made a statement.

[Begin Kim Yang-kwon recording] As everyone knows, in his New Year address this year, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song revealed a new, epochal nation-saving proposal for realizing free travel and full-scale openness by the North and the South by removing the barrier between the North and the South. This new epochal nation-saving proposal has reverberated far and wide at home and abroad.

In his New Year address, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught: The concrete wall built in the South side's area of the MDL must be destroyed first of all. The concrete wall is a symbol of division of the nation and North-South confrontation, and it is a disgrace to our people that such a wall, unseen in any place of the world, is still left intact.

As taught by the great leader, what is important above all in the new national salvation proposal is the removal of the concrete wall built in the South side's area of the MDL. The issue of removing this wall has been put forward as an important issue. I think that in view of the issue of realizing free travel and full-scale openness between the North and the South, the concrete wall must be removed first.

Removal of the concrete wall means an end to the policy of North-South confrontation. This serves as the basis for reconciliation and trust between the North and the South. The concrete wall is a symbol of division of the nation and North-South confrontation because it is an outcome of the two Koreas plot of the United States and the South Korean authorities.

With the beginning of the seventies, the United States assumed the two Koreas plot as the basis of its Korean policy in an attempt to permanently seize even South Korea alone.

According to this, in June 1973, the South Korean authorities made perpetuation of division a policy through a special foreign policy statement, and suspended dialogue between the North and the South.

The concrete wall built on the South side of the MDL was designed to make the people at home and abroad recognize the division of the one nation and one land into two. Thus, we can say that this wall was built as a symbol of the nation's division by the United States and the South Korean authorities in an attempt to permanently divide our nation according to their two Koreas policy.

The concrete wall is an outcome of the anticommunist confrontation policy of the United States and the South Korean authorities.

With the beginning of the seventies, the antidictatorship struggle for democratization was strengthened among the South Korean people more strongly than ever before and the spirit for reunification through collaboration with communists was enhanced with each passing day.

Therefore, it was necessary for the South Korean authorities, who were embarrassed by this, to work out a number of evil laws, including the Anticommunist Law, internally, in an attempt to prevent their struggle and

spirit and to more highly build the barrier between the North and the South externally.

Chon Tu-hwan, who played the basic role in building this barrier, personally came to the construction site in late June 1978 and said: Why are we building this barrier? Externally, it is designed to prevent the threat of southward invasion. However, this is a camouflage tactic. Frankly speaking, in modern warfare, which will be staged three-dimensionally with neither frontline nor rear area on the ground, on the sea, and in the air, what role can the concrete wall play? As a matter of fact, this wall is for internal security. In other words, this is to prevent the popular will from aspiring for the reunification and the spirit for reunification from being enhanced. This is designed for those rascals who aspire to the reunification to give up the reunification and so forth by building the high concrete wall.

On the other hand, it was necessary for the United States to foment a sense of crisis to give credibility to the theory of southward invasion in an attempt to permanently occupy South Korea and to accelerate troop reinforcement. This is why the high concrete wall was built (?as it is today) in the South side's area of the MDL as a symbol of North-South confrontation.

I will now briefly speak about the structure of the concrete wall. In defiance of denunciation of the public at home and abroad, the South Korean authorities began to build this concrete wall starting in 1977 and completed it over the course of several years.

The scale of this wall is not uniform. The scale varies according to the time when the wall was built—whether in the initial, the middle, or the last stage. The scale also slightly varies according to the location of the wall—whether in a key position or in a mountainous area.

However, generally speaking, the concrete wall is 10 to 19 meters wide at the bottom, 3 to 7 meters wide in the upper part, and 5 to 8 meters tall. These figures are the minimum ones. Antitank and antipersonnel mines are planted and wire entanglements and other artificial obstacles lie before the wall.

The wall has pillboxes, set-ups for installing heavy weapons including machine guns and observation facilities.

More than 800,000 tons of cement and 200,000 tons of steel were reportedly consumed in building the wall. The areas where concrete walls cannot be built, such as streams and rivers, have been blocked with underwater lockgates or various sizes of concrete and iron poles. Thus, the North and the South have been kept apart by these barriers.

When the North and the South were separated by only barbed wire, animals, at least, could come and go, passing through them, although people could not do so, of course. However, since the North and the South have been completely blocked by a concrete wall today, even animals cannot come and go through the wall. Thus is our nation suffering such a tragedy. Therefore, I think that removing the concrete wall is of vital significance in achieving the country's reunification.

Once the concrete wall is removed, the beginning of national unity will be opened. Our compatriots in the North and the South cannot make mutual visits. They have lived without knowing even the fate of their separated families and relatives. Furthermore, they have been unable to correspond with each other. This is precisely today's reality on the Korean peninsula. Even the [word indistinct] road of the figures of all walks of life in South Korea who call for collaboration with communism, collaboration with the North, and reunification has been completely blocked.

Therefore, the barrier of division, which has been built more impregnably than a border between countries, should be removed at the earliest possible date. The concrete wall built in the area south of the MDL is unprecedented in any other countries in the world.

In the past, a country built castle walls and fortresses to defend the country. However, we cannot find such a concrete wall like the one built in the area south of the MDL anywhere in the world today. So, the existence of such a concrete wall in the area south of the MDL is precisely a disgrace to our nation.

If the concrete wall—which is the symbol of antagonism, confrontation, distrust, and misunderstanding between the North and the South—is removed, free travel between the North and the South will be realized, openness be will achieved, and, thus, the beginning of national unity will be opened. The removal of the concrete wall will also become a touchstone which verifies the will of the persons in authority of South Korea for reunification.

The persons in authority of South Korea are now talking about openness, reunification, and the like. However, if they do not remove the concrete wall, no one in this world will believe their talk.

As the United States and the South Korean authorities are welcoming the opening of the wall of division in another country, there is no reason whatsoever for which they cannot remove the concrete wall. If they continue delaying national unity and reunification, telling lies, this will be a great crime to history and the nation.

It is only self-evident that openness and reunification cannot be achieved as long as the concrete wall is left as it is. If they truly want reunification and have the intention to open the door, the persons in authority of South Korea should not pay lip service, but should show in deed and should take a resolute step to pull down the concrete wall, which they built themselves and which is the symbol of division and the disgrace of the nation. [end recording]

The news conference was followed by answers to the questions raised by reporters. After the news conference, reporters saw a documentary film on the concrete wall built in the area south of the MDL.

South Korea

North Said Building More 'Concentration Camps'

SK1701110290 Seoul YONHAP in English 1055 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 17 (YONHAP)—North Korea is now confining 152,000 political prisoners at 12 concentration camps scattered across the country, a report released Wednesday by South Korean intelligence officials said.

The report said the North Korean Government recently set up four new concentration camps, bringing their number to 12 from eight in 1982, to cope with increasing number of political dissidents.

It pointed out that the number of political prisoners also increased from 105,000 to 152,000 over the corresponding period. The figure represents 0.7 percent of total population in the communist North, it said.

The report said the newly constructed camps are located at Toksong, South Hamgyong Province: Kaechon, South Pyongan Province: Pukchang, South Pyongan Province: and Tongsin, Chagang Province.

Political dissension has flared up surrounding North Korean President Kim il-sung's schemes to turn over power to his son, Chong-il, and keep the North Korean society closed to the outer world, according to the report.

Among the prisoners are former vice premiers Hong Song-yong and Kim Kyong-yon, former national security minister Kim Pyong-ha and former vice president Kim Tong-kyu whose names disappeared from the list of ranking officials in February, 1982, it was said. Yi Kun-mo, former vice premier, who has failed to appear in official functions since last december, seems to have been jailed for his opposition to Kim Chong-il's succession to power.

The report said the detainees are believed to include former alternate member of workers' party Political Bureau Yu Chang-sik, former party secretaries Kim Kwang-hyop and Kim To-man, former counter-South operations chief Ho Pong-hak and former army generals Chong Pyong-kap and Kim Yang-chun.

An analytic study filed by the intelligence officials said that the prisoners detained in the concentration camps are normally deprived of all civil rights and facing "an inhumane situation in which they manage to live simply on herb roots and hunted wild animals."

The prisoners are mobilized for 12-hour-long forced labor and two-hour-long reeducation session every day, it added.

An intelligence official, who refused to be identified, said, "North Korean Government is now stepping up internal surveillance over its citizens in an effort to suppress public resentment over Kim il-song's ploy to turn over his power to his son and to prevent the reforms drive in the Eeast European countries from affecting domestic situation."

North IPU Proposal To Be Discussed 18 Jan

SK1701095490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0931 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 17 (YONHAP)—North Korea proposed Wednesday [10 Jan] that Seoul and Pyongyang form a single Korean delegation to the 84th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) General Assembly which it hopes to host in coming autumn.

The proposal was delivered in a letter sent by Chairman Yang Hyong-sop of North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly to his South Korean counterpart, speaker Kim Chae-sun. Yang said Pyongyang is willing to host the 84th IPU General Assembly and proposed having an inter-Korean meeting on Feb. 7 at the truce village of Panmunjom to discuss formation of a single delegation to the event.

He also suggested that the meeting be attended by a five-man delegation headed by the deputy leader of each side's delegation to the IPU. Yang said, "our side hopes to discuss the matter as early as possible before the 83rd IPU assembly to be held in April."

Speaker Kim will convene Thursday a meeting to discuss the North Korean proposal. The meeting will be attended by floor leaders of the four political parties, chairman of the National Assembly foreign affairs-unification committee, special National Assembly unification committee, head of South Korean delegation to the IPU and vice unification minister.

Cho Sun's Briefing to No on Economy Analyzed

SK1701015090 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 17 Jan 90 p 6

[News analysis by staff reporter Sim Yong-su: "Push for Economic Cooperation With North Korea Manifested in 1990's Plan"]

[Text] This year's economic management plan, reported by Deputy Prime Minister Cho Sun to President No Tae-u yesterday, manifests the government's strong will to open practical economic cooperation with North Korea.

Cho's report also draws attention to the fact that the government is taking concrete moves to explore emerging markets in Eastern Europe, which promises to become one of Korea's largest export markets following massive democratic reforms there.

The nation's chief economic policy-maker and concurrently minister of the Economic Planning Board [EPB],

Cho, responding to rising popular criticism that economic concentration on big conglomerates, widely known as "chaebol," still remains disproportionately high, also disclosed a high-powered prescription to encourage them to scale back.

The government's determination to develop practical economic exchanges with the North, instead of the lip service of the past, is evidenced by a plan to establish the "South-North Economic Cooperation Fund" scaled at 200 billion to 300 billion won (roughly $400 million).

The scheme to set up the fund, at the same time, reflects the South's increasing confidence that the winds of reform sweeping Eastern Europe will eventually reach the tightly-closed society of the North, forcing the North to respond to the South's call for detente and cooperation.

How the proposed fund will be raised and used has yet to be decided.

But EPB officials close to the project said that the money will be used primarily to help the North's lagging economy.

The fund, they said, will be extended to the North for investment in any project which matches the spirit of reconciliation and cooperation between the two sides.

The size of the fund can be expanded, the officials said, if necessary, depending on demand from the North.

But in view of the frigid relations between the two sides, it is hard to predict when the fund will be put into use for the North.

The North has refused to admit that it lags behind the South economically, and bitterly denounces the South for what it calls "excessive dependence on foreign countries."

There is no noticeable sign of change in the North toward the South, the government's North Korean affairs experts agreed. but if change begins in the North, they said, the pace is expected to be beyond "our expectations," like that occurring in Eastern Europe.

They said that the North appears keenly in need of economic cooperation with the South but is hesitant because of a possible backlash, not from outside but inside, since its own people have been brainwashed that the North's chuche (self-reliance) economic system is the best in the world.

As a possible first target of the proposed fund, economic officials here list the Mt. Kumgang (Diamond) development project for which the North has invited a top South Korean businessman, Chong Chu-yong, to enter a joint venture development.

The establishment of the fund may also reflect the South's hopes of finding a breakthrough in inter-Korea relations through the opening of economic cooperation, following its surprising success in making diplomatic breakthroughs with several Eastern European countries through an economic approach.

Seoul has established full diplomatic relations with several East European nations, including Hungary and Poland, after first approaching Pyongyang's allies through economic exchanges, in recent years.

The government's plan to establish another fund, scaled at 150 billion won (about $200 million) for economic cooperation with the Eastern European countries, shows Seoul's eagerness to help those nations' troubled economies.

The fund is part of the government's strategy to secure a solid foothold in areas which government officials see as being among Korea's biggest export markets, once democratic reforms movement there successfully end.

A top government economic official predicted that the Eastern European countries, though now buffeted by a lack of hard currency, technology and high inflation,w ill become one of the world's biggest markets for Korea, along with the European Community, in coming years.

The fund shows the government's intention to cement ties with the countries in the area before they emerge as a key export market, the official said.

The deputy premier's report also stresses the government's strong will to redress the over-concentration of the nation's economy on big conglomerates, which has become a major source of popular dissent.

According to government figures, about 40 top conglomerates, including Hyundai, Samsung and Daewoo, account for over 15 percent of the nation's gross national product.

A high EPB official said that unless the problem is corrected, the government's strenuous yet unsuccessful endeavors toward fair distribution of wealth will not progress.

Cho's report also contained concrete steps to boost economic self- reliance of local governments and decentralize government functions, in preparation for implementation of the local autonomy system this year.

Elections to form local parliaments, for the first time in nearly three decades, are to be held during the first half of this year.

But the deputy premier's report drew popular criticism that the government puts too much emphasis on external relations while neglecting the domestic economy, which is experiencing trouble because of sluggish exports, inflation and labor disputes.

South To Support North Economic Development

SK1101111190 Seoul YONHAP in English 1012 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan 11 (YONHAP)—South Korea is working out comprehensive measures to support North Korea's economic development, promote the opening of North Korean society and boost economic exchanges between the two Koreas, in anticipation that there will soon be changes in North Korea like those in Eastern Europe, sources said.

Consultations are under way among relevant government agencies, such as the Economic Planning Board, the National Unification Board and the agency for National Security Planning, to work out a practical way to give economic assistance to North Korea, they said.

The government intends to supply North Korea with daily necessities wanted by the North Korean people to prepare for the changes and has decided to study various

measures, including listing daily necessities, determining the volume of supplies and transportation means.

The government will propose resuming economic talks next month so that South and North Korea can decide how the South can help North Korea economically, the sources said.

Also under study are establishment of an economic cooperation fund to support development projects in the North and the inauguration of a South-North Economic Cooperation Committee.

The government will use diplomatic means to induce North Korea to join international financial organizations, including the World Bank and the Asia Development Bank.

It will also invigorate importation of North Korean raw materials.

South Korea imported minerals and other primary products from North Korea worth 21.485 million U.S. dollars from November 1988, when inter-Korean trade began, until November last year. Exports to the North totaled a mere 69,000 dollars during the same period.

Inter-Korean trade has been sluggish since July last year but began to recover in November, according to the Trade and Industry Ministry.

Businesses Plan 'Brisk' Inter-Korean Trade

SK1101053290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0521 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (YONHAP)—Prospects for brisk importation of goods from North Korea are in place as industrialists in South Korea are dusting off plans to buy North Korean products, encouraged by president No Tae-u's declaration Wednesday that he is willing to promote inter-Korean merchandise trade.

There was a rush by South Korean conglomerates to jump into the North Korean market at one time last year, only to be discouraged by "security-oriented politics" triggered by the unauthorized visits to Pyongyang of the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and other dissidents.

Of particular interest are primary products, including fiber and ore, as well as industrial goods, say businessmen, who think North Korea will respond positively to No's proposal for trade and economic exchanges.

The Lucky-Goldstar group, Korea's fourth largest conglomerate, says it will substantially increase its imports of North Korean fiber, lead ore, steel sheet and zinc to 8 million U.S. dollars.

It projects lead ore imports of 2,500 tons at a cost of 1.8 million dollars, a seven-fold rise from last year's 375 tons and 290,000 dollars, plus 15,000 tons of steel sheet at 5.17 million dollars and 1,200 tons of zinc at 1 million dollars. The group has already bought two lathes through Pyongyang's Taesung Trading Co. and plans to import more if tests show them to be efficient.

The Ssangyong Group, one of the ten largest conglomerates, says it hopes to import lead ore, nickel ore, feldspar, magnesia clinker and other ores and raw materials as well as manufactured goods this year.

The Hyosung Business Group plans to import North Korean lead and to export garments and tires. Hyosung imported anthracite and electrolytic copper from North Korea last year.

The Hyundai and Samsung Groups, the top two conglomerates, are considering buying more North Korean goods and have begun a review of their import needs.

Though accepting North Korean leader Kim Il-song's proposal for free inter-Korean travel and calling for summit talks to discuss this and other pending issues, No vowed to continue to pursue merchandise trade between the Koreas in order to form an economic bond with North Korea. No also said in Wednesday's news conference that the South is ready to embark on joint development projects, especially in tourism, including a resort complex on scenic Mt. Kumgang in the North.

Business executives say the government must help efforts in the private sector to promote inter-Korean trade and ease procedural matters in the merchandise trade.

Hyundai To 'Give' Cars, Tractors To North

SK1301015090 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 13 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] The Hyundai group will deliver a number of passenger cars and tractors to North Korea before its founder and honorary chairman Chong Chu-yong visits the North probably in April, it was learned yesterday.

Chong promised to give North Korea passenger cars and tractors manufactured by the Hyundai group when he made a trip to the North in January last year at the invitation of Ho Tam, chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland.

He was the first Southern businessman to have visited North Korea in January last year. It was reported that Chong would visit the North again soon after he makes a trip to the Soviet Union in late March or early April.

His revisit of North Korea is aimed at substantiating the joint development of Mt. Kumgang (Diamond) located in the North and other Northern projects.

However, it was not known how many passenger cars and tractors the Hyundai group would send to North Korea prior to Chong's trip to the North.

Business circles said the Hyundai group has already asked the government to allow its supply of passenger cars and tractors to North Korea.

In the meantime, the government has reportedly allowed Hyundai to send such products to North Korea in order to improve inter-Korean relations.

According to business circles, Hyundai requested the government authorities to give it a chance of keeping its word regarding the gift of the goods, which Chong made to the North Korean authorities when he visited Pyongyang for the first time last year.

The request has been prompted by the recent mood in favor of South-North contact in the wake of abruptly frozen atmosphere caused by unauthorized visits by Mun Ik-hwan, woman student Yim Su-kyong, and So Kyong-won.

Hyundai Plans Siberian Pipeline Through North

SK1301023890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0226 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 13 (YONHAP)—South Korea's Hyundai Business Group is studying the feasibility of building a pipeline through North Korea to carry natural gas from Siberia to South Korea.

Hyundai, part of a three-nation consortium to develop natural gas deposits in Siberia, envisions a 56 inch (140 centimeters) pipeline traversing the 4,000 kilometers from the gas fields to South Korea, a company official said Saturday.

Chong Chu-yong, founder and honorary chairman of Hyundai, is expected to discuss the project as well as the joint development of Mt. Kumgang in North Korea and opening of joint ventures that he suggested during his North Korean trip early last year if he revisits Pyongyang this year, the official said on condition of anonymity.

Hyundai announced last December it will develop natural gas in Siberia this year under a consortium with a U.S. company and a Japanese concern. At that time, however, Hyundai hinted the Siberian gas would reach South Korea without passing through North Korean territory.

South Korean and Soviet authorities have already consulted on the plan, which would facilitate economic cooperation and spur South-North Korean economic exchanges.

Hyundai Pipe Co., an affiliate of the Hyundai Group, is working on a high-pressure pipeline capable of withstanding the extremes of weather in Siberia, the source said. The project will link Komsomolsk and Vladivostok in the Soviet Union to Chongjin, Wonsan and Pyongyang in North Korea and Seoul and Inchon in South Korea.

North Withholds Lifting of Travel Restrictions

SK1101060390 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0400 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] A high-ranking intelligence official of the government said today that it has been confirmed that North Korea has withheld its plan to lift travel restrictions for its people, a plan that it is scheduled to be implemented on 15 January. This official also said that since the North Korean authorities have withheld their plan to lift travel restrictions, the North Korean people must receive a travel permit from the relevant authorities as they did in the past in order to leave their county, and that North Korea has taken this measure to prevent the waves of reforms from reaching the North Korean people and to tighten its control over them. In order to soothe the people's discontent over travel restrictions that have been imposed upon the people since the division, North Korea had pushed ahead since last October with a plan to allow Pyongyang citizens to freely travel to all the areas in the North, except for the borderline area and the DMZ area, without travel permits and to allow other people to freely travel in their own province. North Korean people have not been allowed to leave their counties without a permit.

Plan for Older Citizens To Visit North Studied

SK1701054690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0518 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 17 (YONHAP)—South Korea is considering a plan to allow anyone over 60 who was born in North Korea to visit the North, a highly placed government official said Wednesday.

South Korea will take a humanitarian approach to visits to the North, he said, anyone in this category can travel if they have reported to the National Unification Board and have a travel permit issued by the board.

The move to allow travel by elderly South Koreans is part of President No Tae-u's effort to induce North Korea to move toward openness, said the official, who declined to be named.

The official said the new travel measure will affect some 500,000 out of an estimated 10 million people living in separation since liberation of the Korean peninsula from Japan in 1945. A great portion of them is North Koreans who became refugees in South Korea when they fled communist rule during the Korean War (1950-53).

The step, a major shift in policy toward exchanges with North Korea, will be implemented after a special bill on South-North Korean exchanges and cooperation has been approved by the National Assembly in its February session, according to the official.

South Koreans are free to visit communist North Korea if they are invited by the North and have a permit from

the Unification Board, but few people have made the trip legally due to the complicated procedures and inter-Korean relations.

The government is also considering easing restrictions on visits by North Koreans to the South, judging that increased direct contact between South and North Koreans is essential to improve relations with the North, he said.

The government is hopeful visits to the North will take place and finds it a good sign that reunions of separated families has been given top priority in discussions for South-North exchanges and the North has frequently called for reunions, he said.

According to government statistics, 10 million people are separated from family members or relatives in South and North Korea, which split into the communist North and the capitalist South at the end of World War II.

Correspondence is banned and most of them have been separated since the Korean War, when many Koreans living in the North fled to the South to escape communist rule, leaving behind families and relatives.

A few hundred people from both halves crossed over to the other side to meet family members and relatives in 1985 when Red Cross authorities arranged the first reunion since the division. But the humanitarian reunion program collapsed after one meeting when relations soured between the two Koreas, which technically remain at war.

The heavily-fortified 250-kilometer military demarcation line in the demilitarized zone marks the point where an armistice halted the fighting in 1953.

The two sides have resumed Red Cross talks for humanitarian exchanges, mainly designed to realize a reunion of dispersed Koreans, but without substantial progress.

In a separate move, the government will also push ahead with efforts to sign a travel agreement with North Korea in Red Cross talks or in a preliminary meeting for high-level political and military talks, the official said.

President No has welcomed North Korean leader Kim Il-song's proposal for travel and total opening between the South and the North, and called for a summit with Kim to discuss the proposal. Pyongyang has yet to respond to No's suggestion of a summit.

To create a good atmosphere for inter-Korean dialogue and exchanges, the annual "Team Spirit" South Korea-U.S. military exercise, which the North claims poses threat to it and has been an obstacle to dialogue, will be scaled down this year. North Korea often canceled inter-Korean contacts in the past because of the annual maneuvers.

Foreign Securities Companies Allowed From 1991

SK1101054890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0529 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (YONHAP)—South Korea will gradually permit foreign securities companies to set up branches here from 1991 and expand opportunities for aliens to invest directly in the Korean bourse in 1992, Finance Minister Yi Kyu-song said Thursday.

Yi unveiled the government timetable for opening the market in a speech at the third annual Asia Capital Market Conference, being held Thursday and Friday in a Seoul hotel. He pledged prudent market opening, saying a rash drive might disrupt the foreign exchange market and shock the domestic economy.

At present, only foreigners who have lived in Korea longer than six months can invest directly in the securities market. Yi also promised equal opportunities for foreign banks in Korea with domestic banks.

Foreign banks complain they are not allowed to provide giro services.

Easing of Cocom Export Restrictions Sought

SK1201034490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0231 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 12 (YONHAP)—South Korea will demand an easing of Cocom [Coordinating Committee for Export to Communist Areas] restrictions on the export of "strategic items" at a Korea-U.S. conference in February, sources at the Trade and Industry Ministry said Friday.

Korea agreed in 1987 with the United States, leader of the 17-member Cocom (the Coordinating Committee on Multilateral Export Controls), to restrict exports of strategic commodities and technology to 14 communist countries including the Soviet Union and China from this June in accordance with Cocom principles.

Since more and more advanced western technologies have been transferred to the East Bloc recently, not to speak of increased cooperation in technology between the United States and the Soviet Union, the government will seek measures to minimize damage to local exporters, the sources said.

In order to ensure smooth clearance procedures for Korean exports to the East Bloc, the ministry will propose at the February meeting listing strategic items in accordance with the more detailed harmonized system instead of the Cocom list.

The ministry is also considering establishing an organization of private businesses to determine what products are in the category of strategic items.

Protocal on Relations With CSSR Initialed

SK1701054090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0535 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 17 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Czechoslovakia initialed a draft agreement establishing diplomatic relations in Prague on Tuesday, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

"Ambassador-at-Large Hong Sun-yong and Czech Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier agreed to set up diplomatic ties between the two nations," a ministry spokesman said.

Dienstbier invited Korean Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung to visit Prague as soon as possible, and Choe is likely to go there in March to sign the agreement, the spokesman said.

Korea, Poland Accords To Take Effect 2 Feb

SK1101055690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0542 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (YONHAP)—Investment protection and trade accords between South Korea and Poland are to take effect Feb. 2, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

The two governments signed the pacts in Seoul last November, agreeing they would take effect 30 days after necessary procedures were completed. The Polish Government notified the Korean Government of completion on Jan. 2, the ministry said.

The accord on mutual investment protection stipulates that the governments extend most favored nation treatment to each other's investment and gains and guarantee unlimited remittance of profits.

The trade accord details the most favored treatment in mutual trade, support for trade fairs and exhibitions and establishment of bilateral committees to promote trade.

Investment in Communist States Simplified

SK1201023490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 12 Jan 90 p 6

[Text] The government will simplify procedures for Korean businesses' investments in Communist countries.

The measure came in a meeting of a panel of working-level government officials on the north-bound economic policy yesterday.

An official at the Economic Planning Board said the government will increase its assistance for business concerns who wish to promote relations with their counterparts in Communist nations.

The assistance will include funds from the Export-Import Bank of Korea.

The official said the government will seek to sign an agreement on the guarantee of Korean investments with socialist countries.

Korea will share its experience on economic development to help socialist nations conduct reforms, he said. He said the government will try to establish more trade offices in Communist countries.

Banks Seek Offices in East Bloc Countries

SK1201014490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0107 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 12 (YONHAP)—The Korea Development Bank (KDB) is seeking approval from the Hungarian Finance Ministry to pen a liason office in Budapest in March. If approved, it will be the first South Korean bank office in the East Bloc, the KDB said Friday.

The state-run bank secured informal consent from the Finance Ministry last year to open an office in order to support Korean companies in Hungary. Currently, Samsung and Daewoo business groups have operations there.

Meanwhile, the Korea Exchange Bank is seeking opening liaison offices in China and the Soviet Union this year.

Seoul Considering Import Ban on U.S. Beef

SK1001131090 Seoul YONHAP in English 1248 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 10 (YONHAP)—South Korea will have to consider import ban on beef from the United States if Washington takes sanctions on Korean exports, an Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry official said Wednesday, a day before the two-day negotiations on Korea's beef import from the United States.

"Under the current circumstances, we are neither in a position to give beef import liberalization schedule nor consider it," said Sin Ku-pom, director general of the ministry.

The Korea-U.S. negotiations follows a GATT panel report in November 1989 urging Korea to have talks with its trading partners to make up a beef market opening timetable by February. On the agenda are drawing up a timetable for Korea's beef import liberalization, formation a joint survey team to look into Korea's livestock industry and 1990 import quota.

The United States is expected to demand strongly for the import timetable, while Korea will insist on curren quota system because of its shaky livestock industry.

Shin, who is to head a nine-member Korean delegation, said Korea will call for the formation of a joint survey team to prove what Korea's livestock industry is like. He promised, however, to guarantee the import quota of at least 50,000 ton for the United States, the same level as last year, and increase the volume if necessary.

Nancy adams, assistant deputy U.S. Trade Representative, leads a six-member U.S. mission.

U.S.-Korean Beef Talks End in 'Rupture'

SK1201022490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 12 Jan 90 p 6

[News analysis by staff reporter Chong Pong-uk: "Seoul, Washington May Be on Collision Course on Beef Issue"]

[Text] Will the United States tolerate the Korean position insisting on a beef import quota system despite a GATT Council call for Seoul's presentation of a beef import liberalization schedule? This was the central question of Korea-U.S. beef talks which opened in Seoul yesterday for a two-day run.

The answer was no. The meeting ended in rupture yesterday. The United States continued to urge Korea to present a timetable for lifting import restrictions on beef, while Seoul insisted on maintaining an import quota system introduced when it resumed beef imports in July 1988.

Seoul and Washington may be on a collision course on the beef issue although they are likely to hold another or more beef talks until Feb. 7, the deadline set by the GATT Council.

The United States is ready to take retaliatory actions against Korea as declared by U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills last year. A retaliatory list, which may include Korean-made automobiles and electronic appliances, will be posted March 27 for actions a month later if Korea fails to reach an agreement with the United States in the beef talks.

Korea, however, is firm in its position maintaining an import quota system despite the U.S. retaliatory schedule. Sin Ku-pum, who led the Korean delegation to yesterday's meeting, said the Korean government is braving the U.S. retaliatory actions. "Under any circumstances we can not present the timetable," he said.

In yesterday's meeting, the United States rejected Seoul's proposal for negotiations on the import quota for this year. The U.S. position was uncompromising when it said Seoul's presentation of a timetable should be a prerequisite to dealing with the quota for 1990.

It even rejected another Seoul bid for the formation of a joint survey team to look into the Korean livestock industry.

Chances are slight that Korea and the United States will succeed in the beef negotiations by early next month, business watchers in Seoul say.

The Korean Government has no option but to insist on a quota system because of strong local resistance against beef import liberalization as evidenced by radical demonstrations staged by farmers and dissident groups in recent years. Furthermore, the National Assembly is dominated by opposition parties, including the Party for Peace and Democracy.

Beef became a hot trade issue between Seoul and Washington when the American Meat Institute filed complaints on Korea's beef import suspension with the U.S. government in February 1988.

A month later the U.S. trade representative initiated an investigation of trade practices in the Korean beef market, while bringing the case to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Under mounting U.S. pressure, Korea resumed beef imports in July 1988 under a quota system, ending a four-year suspension. The import quota was set at 14,500 tons for 1988 and 39,000 tons for last year. The 1988 quota, however, was revised to 50,000 tons later.

The United States, together with Australia and New Zealand, has intensified its pressure on Korea despite Seoul's action.

In April last year a GATT panel produced recommendations calling for Korea's presentation of a timetable for lifting import restrictions under an agreement by the Korean government.

The GATT action followed the decision made by the GATT Committee for Balance-of-Payments Restrictions to graduate Korea from the GATT Article 18 (B) under which a country with a poor balance of payments position is allowed to impose import restrictions on certain goods.

The committee action came at a time when Korea's surplus on the current account of international transactions has been rising. The surplus figure increased from $4.6 billion in 1986 to $9.8 billion in 1987 and to $14.2 billion in 1988.

The GATT, however, allowed an eight-year grace period. Under the GATT action, Korea is required to lift import restrictions on all commodities until [as published] July 1977.

Multilateral Pacts Sought Against U.S. Pressure

SK1101015090 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 11 Jan 90 p 6

[By staff reporter Choe Nam-hyon]

[Text] Korea is looking to multilateral pacts for a shelter from the U.S. threat of trade sanctions.

One of the trade issues Korea wishes to solve in the framework of a multilateral accord is the U.S. demand Korea open up its communications market.

The United States is poised to sanction Korea if no satisfactory results emerge from a year of bilateral negotiations on the U.S. demand.

In the face of a U.S. threat, the Korean Government plans to become a contracting party to the Government Procurement Code of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade soon.

"I believe a consensus has formed that we join the Government Procurement Code. A final decision will be

made this month," an official from the Ministry of Trade and Industry said yesterday.

Chang Sokan, director-general for multilateral trade affairs, said Korea needs to check if it has made more concessions to the United States in bilateral negotiations than are required by international pacts.

One such concession Chang had in mind was a Korean promise to protect U.S. "pipeline" products which have been patented but not marketed.

Korea promised in July 1986 that it would retroactively protect such patents registered since Jan. 1, 1980.

The European Community and Japan have since demanded Korea's similar protection of their patents, complaining that they are discriminated against.

"The Korean concession was a silly capitulation to U.S. pressure," Chang said.

The United States made a similar demand in its talks with Korea on the trade of communications equipment.

It demanded Korea permit U.S. companies to bid for any communications equipment worth $25,000 or more which the Korean government buys.

When Korea pointed out that only a product worth $160,000 or more must be open to international bidding under the Government Procurement Code, the United States dropped its demand, another ministry official said.

The United States also demanded Korea accede to the Government Procurement Code, make its government procurement processes transparent and allow U.S. companies to take part in biddings held by five Korean agencies.

The five agencies were the Ministry of Communications, the Office of Supply, the Korea Telecommunication Authority, Data Communications Corp. and Mobile Telecommunications Co.

No significant progress was made in the Korea-U.S. talks on Korea's communications market.

The bilateral talks started after the United States named Korea a priority foreign country in the trade of communication equipment—a country it believed was engaged in unfair trade practices—along with the European Community Feb. 23 last year.

The United States said it would negotiate with Korea and the European Community until Feb. 23 this year and then decide whether or not it would retaliate against them.

Korea is likely to have two more rounds to talk with the United States until Feb. 23, an official from the Ministry of Communications said.

Against the backdrop, Chang said, Korea plans to join the Government Procurement Code, accepting part of the U.S. demands.

To obtain membership, Korea needs to negotiate with each contracting member items and government agencies it is willing to open to the Government Procurement Code.

In the process of negotiations, Chang said, Korea could discuss which of the five agencies suggested by the United States will be made open to the code.

Exports to Soviet Union 'Soared' in 1989

SK1301020690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0149 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 13 (YONHAP)—South Korean exports to the Soviet Union soared more than four-fold and those to the rest of East Europe doubled between January and November last year, the Trade and Industry Ministry reported Saturday.

Soviet-bound exports in the 11-month period reached 141.5 million U.S. dollars, up 455.5 percent from a year earlier, while exports to eight East European countries were 200.9 million dollars, up 96.4 percent.

Imports from the Soviet Union jumped 122.2 percent to 359.8 million dollars in the cited period, while those from the eight East European nations rose 30.3 percent to 109.9 million dollars, the report said. Korea's total exports edged up 3.3 percent to 56.1 billion dollars in the period and imports climbed 18.9 percent to 55.8 billion dollars.

A trade deficit of 218.3 million dollars with the Soviet Union contrasted with a 91 million dollar surplus with the eight East European countries—Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Romania and Albania.

The report attributed the rapid growth to sweeping democratic reforms and growing ties between Seoul and the region.

Korea opened diplomatic relations with Hungary in February, with Poland in November and established de facto consular ties with the Soviet Union in December. It is expected to exchange ambassadors with Yugoslavia this year.

The report said demand is surging in the Soviet Union for Korean-made videotape recorders, electric ranges and personal computers as well as soap, toothpaste, shoes and textiles. Korea's major import items from the Soviet Union were iron, nonferrous products, fish, farm products, coal and lumber.

South To Ask USSR To Open Aviation Talks

SK1201115990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0909 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 12 (YONHAP)—South Korea is to ask the Soviet Union to open government-level aviation talks to support flights between Seoul and Moscow, the Transportation Ministry announced Friday.

An agreement on opening a regular air route linking Seoul and Moscow from April 1 was signed recently by Korean Air (KAL) and Aeroflot, the Soviet state-run airline. The two countries do not have diplomatic relations.

The ministry will promote charter flights if there is special demand and will draw up guidelines for Korea's

two airlines on passage through foreign air space and cooperation with foreign airlines. The decision was made after consultations with the Defense Ministry and the Agency for National Security Planning. Even before regular flights to Moscow begin April 1, KAL will be allowed to fly chartered planes on the route.

The Ministry also decided to allow KAL's Europe-bound flights to use Soviet air space until Jan. 27, when permission from the Soviet Government expires. Permission was given as planes are unable to use Anchorage Airport, the normal refueling stop, due to volcanic eruptions in the area.

The ministry will distribute the guidelines before the aviation talks open in Moscow next month.

Company Seeks To Build Piano Factory in China

SK1201044090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0300 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 12 (YONHAP)—A South Korean company is seeking permission to build the biggest piano factory in China in a joint venture in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province.

The government's overseas investment deliberation committee is considering positively a proposal by Samick Musical Instruments Co. to establish a piano factory jointly with the Forestry Administration of Heilongjiang, an official of the Bank of Korea [BOK], who was involved in the project, said Friday.

The committee comprises officials of the economic Planning Board, Foreign Ministry, Finance Ministry, Trade and Industry Ministry and the central bank.

Samick will pour 17.94 million U.S. dollars into the 55-45 joint venture, which is to have a production capability of 30,000 pianos and 60,000 guitars a year from 1991, a spokesman for the company said.

"It is almost certain that the committee will grant our company approval because, I know, some ministries already sent notes permitting the project to the BOK," said Kim Kyong-tok, a senior Samick accountant.

If the joint venture goes through, it will be the largest ever Korea-China project, exceeding Daewoo's joint refrigerator plant, in which Daewoo invested 10 million dollars, built in Fuzhou City, Fujian Province, during 1988-89.

Direct Phone, Telex Service to China Operating

SK1101020490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 11 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] Direct telephone and telex services to China have been in operation since late October, the Korea Telecommunication Authority (KTA) said yesterday.

The two countries set up 11 telephone lines and six telex lines at the end of October but have been withholding the announcement at the request of Chinese officials, on KTA official said.

In the setup, telephone calls, fax and telexes are transmitted through Intelsat (International satellite) over Beijing. They were formerly carried via a third country, Japan or Hong Kong, according to the KTA.

Korea is expected to save more than 100 million won by not having to pay fees to relaying countries, the KTA official said.

KTA officials visited China last September to wrap up talks on direct lines. Initial plans for a May meeting were aborted because of the Tiananmen Square incident.

Outbound calls to China increased dramatically within the last year with the total number of minutes tallied at 28,526 in November compared to just 22,966 in January, according to KTA figures.

The number of inbound calls was also on the increase—16,693 minutes in April compared to 7,571 minutes in January. Figures after April are not available.

The KTA official said China and North Korea have only three telephone lines between them and all calls are made through operators.

"We have not been able to publicly announce the line installation because the Chinese officials agreed to the installation on the condition that it be kept secret for diplomatic reasons," the official said.

Korea is also directly linked with Yugoslavia and Hungary, with three telephone lines each, since late December.

Korea and China began a speed post service last Wednesday.

Japan May Revoke Import Breaks on Korean Steel

SK1101034890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0254 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 11 (YONHAP)—Steelmakers in South Korea, Taiwan and Brazil are carefully watching moves by Japan, their major export market, to scrap favors granted under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

Japan is likely to comply with mounting calls to curb the rapid growth of steel imports from Korea by revoking the import breaks no earlier than March 1991, industry officials said Thursday.

Japan is studying GNP growth, export volume and other data from the three countries to support legislation on denying them GSP benefits, the officials said.

Korean steel products enter Japan free of tariffs but will be subject to at least 3 percent duty if GSP benefits are revoked.

Japan took 2.55 million tons of Korean steel goods, 43.4 percent of its total steel imports, in November last year, and bought 1.2 billion U.S. dollars of Korean steel products in January-September, 40.6 percent of Korea's

annual steel exports or double the 508 million dollars worth sent to the United States.

Proximity and inexpensive transportation give Korea a comparative advantage over other nations exporting steel to Japan.

Japan's Efforts for Relations With DPRK Noted

SK1101075590 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 9 Jan 90 p 2

[Text] It was learned on 9 January that Japan is strengthening its diplomatic contact through diplomatic channels in Beijing and Belgrade, Yugoslavia, to improve relations with North Korea.

Nations Respond Favorably to Rice Loan Offer

SK1001025490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0246 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 10 (YONHAP)—South Korea has offered to lend some Asian and Middle Eastern countries 400,000 tons of rice a year, a government official said Wednesday. Many nations, including Singapore, India, Iran, Iraq and afghanistan, have responded favourably, asking for samples and details of the conditions, the official said. Repayment would be in the form of crude oil or whatever that nation has an abundance of after a grace period of two years.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the government decided against selling Korea's surplus rice to avoid disputes with the United States and other rice exporting countries, adding that negotiations are under way with some of the major rice exporters.

South Korea's rice crop has averaged nearly 6 million tons in recent years while consumption is 5.4 million tons and falling.

No's Meeting With Kim Yong-sam Detailed

SK1301022090 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 13 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] **President No Tae-u and opposition leader Kim Yong-sam yesterday agreed to introduce an institutional device like a public management system to ensure a fair and clean atmosphere in the elections to form local parliaments to be held in the first half of this year.**

In an exclusive talk at Chongwadae, No and Kim shared the view that a "sure device to prevent vote buying must be instituted in the upcoming special National Assembly session to realize clean polls," presidential spokesman Yi Su-chung announced.

The two leaders agreed that the national economy will be greatly affected and national democracy will move backward, if the coming elections are swayed by money as in the past.

No and Kim sat together for four and a half hours to discuss a wide range of national affairs with a particular emphasis on the need for suprapartisan cooperation to help escape the current economic plight in the second of the series of talks by No with opposition leaders.

They also were of the opinion that the number of local parliamentarians in cities, counties and city wards should be less than 800. The Party for Peace and Democracy led by Kim Tae-chung suggests 1,100.

In the meeting, Kim "particularly underlined the need for restructuring the present four political party system," according to the spokesman.

Kim was quoted as telling the President: "The current four-party formula, which has given rise to the political unrest hitherto, cannot solve the social and economic problems.

"We are also unable to cope with the unification issue effectively under the current political order featuring the split of free democratic forces, taking into consideration the possible effect of changes in East European socialist countries on North Korea."

The opposition leader also claimed that the present system is a product of a sharp localism, so it must be reshaped in such a way as to integrate all the leading forces of society together along political ideological lines.

However, President No only said that he would consider the matter carefully, listening to the opinions of the people and nother parties, because it is a very important question, the spokesman said.

The view of Kim Yong-sam on the political realignment is quite contrary to that of his archrival Kim Tae-chung, who sticks to the current order.

No and Kim also agreed to "make joint efforts to achieve political stability through dialogue and compromise, avoiding confrontation," noting that political peace is more important than anything else in overcoming economic crisis and accomplishing national development.

In particular, Kim strongly asked the President to take resolute measures to prevent crimes such as trafficking in women, recommending that heavy penalties be imposed on the criminals.

Kim further told No, "The government should isolate violent forces seeking to overthrow our free democratic system from workers, taking due measures against them in accordance with laws," according to the spokesman.

Then, he proposed that both the government and political parties make joint efforts to help achieve industrial peace on the basis of reconciliation between workers and employers.

DJP Representative Dies, By-Elections Planned

SK1301015890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0123 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 13 (YONHAP)—Rep. Kim Wan-tae of the ruling Democratic Justice Party died of kidney failure early Saturday morning in Kangnam Severance Hospital here. He was 59. Kim, a three-term lawmaker from the Umsong-Chinchon constituency, received a kidney transplant in November 1989 after being hospitalized in October.

The former vice chairman of the Korea Pharmacists' Association took up politics in 1981, winning election to the National Assembly on an opposition ticket in his home town. Kim's demise brought the number government party lawmakers to 127.

The government party plans to simultaneously conduct by-elections to fill the vacancies created by Kim's death and the resignation of Chong Ho-yong by late March or early April. Under a relevant National Assembly law, vacancies must be filled within 90 days.

Movement for PPD-RDP Merger Losing Intensity

SK1001011690 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 10 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] The movement for the merger of the nation's two largest opposition parties—the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] and the Reunification Democratic Party [RDP]—is losing intensity.

Strongly checked by the leadership of each party, many of the lawmakers pushing for the merger began to back down from their demands yesterday.

Several remain adamant in calling for opposition unity, but it is questionable whether they will gain further momentum.

PPD leader Kim Tae-chung warned against individual moves by party members, stressing that the move for the opposition merger should not negatively affect "more pressing issues" such as preparations for the coming local council elections.

However, he agreed to the activation of a special task force to study the possibility of pushing for the merger.

Kim also warned that any hasty moves to reshape current interparty relations might be politically exploited by the ruling party.

At the RDP, controversy over party leader Kim Yong-sam's future political plan showed signs of calming down.

Kim and his close aides are said to have contacted lawmakers unsympathetic to Kim's plan on an individual basis, and succeeded in gaining their understanding.

In a related development, several senior members of the party, including Choe Hyong-u and Sin Sang-u, are to meet today to exchange views on recent developments over the realignment of the nation's political structure.

'Merging' Result of PPD, RDP Leader Rivalry

SK1001013290 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 10 Jan 90 p 2

[Text] The issue of merging "democratic" opposition forces was broached for the first time in an official meeting of the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] yesterday and a decision was made to set up an intra-party body to deal with the matter.

PPD head Kim Tae-chung will name the members of the special body today after consultation with vice presidents, key office-holders and permanent advisors.

Reps. Yi Sang-su and Yi Hae-chan, promoters of the integration of the opposition forces, were designated as its members.

In a conference to discuss party affairs, the liberal lawmakers had argued for the integration of the PPD, the Reunification Democratic Party [RDP] and dissidents who they called "democratic forces."

Most party seniors opposed the junior legislators' assertions. And of their group, many, including former lawmaker An Ton-son, terming the young legislators' call premature, suspected that there was a scheme to press opposition leaders Kim Tae-chung and Kim Yong-sam to step down.

The group included Rep. Hu Kyong-man, chairman of the National Assembly standing Trade-Industry Committee; and ex-Assemblymen An Tong-son and Pak Pyong-il.

During the party meeting, Yi Hae-chan urged party elders to take a positive attitude to the opposition merger, saying, "Giving the impression you are blocking the discussion for the opposition integration will only undermine the leadership of the party president (Kim Tae-chung)."

Yi Sang-su maintained that the unity of the "democratic" forces is inevitable in order to crush the attempt by the two opposition leaders Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil to whack the current four-party system into two groupings of conservatives and progressives with themselves on the conservative side.

Political analysts observed that PPD head Kim may seek to take advantage of the young lawmakers' demand to drive a wedge into the move by Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil to merge their parties.

Meanwhile, Kim Yong-sam is reportedly successfully persuading junior RDP legislators who challenged his initiative to merge with Kim Chong-pil's New Democratic Republican Party, preferring RDP unity with the PPD.

But Reps. Kim Chung-kil and No Mu-hyon remain restive despite Kim's persuasion, declaring that they will go ahead with a planned campaign to gather signatures from sympathetic RDP lawmakers in support of their cause.

Kim Yong-sam faces another challenge against his initiative from some senior RDP members, including vice presidents Kim Hyon-kyu and Kim Sang-hyon, former RDP floor leader Choe Hyong-u, and Reps. Hwang Nak-chu and Pak Yong-man.

They will meet today to discuss their position. Choe Hyong-u argued that the merger with the PPD, which was born from the same roots as the RDP, should be sought first and then, in case of failure, an alternative next step should be taken for the political realignment. But their argument is said to be losing intensity with time.

Political observers well versed in all the goings in the opposition camp are of the opinion that the current political realignment issue in great part is the result of long smouldering rivalry between Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung flaring up into the open.

However, the burning issue will lose some luster thanks to the efforts of Kim Yong-sam to assuage his party members critical of his thrust for merger.

RDP Figure Resigns Over Attack by 'Hoodlums'

SK1301013690 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 13 Jan 90 p 2

[Text] Rep. Kim Chung-kil of the opposition Reunification Democratic Party [RDP] yesterday resigned as the party's first deputy floor leader to protest Wednesday's violence by several party secretariat officials against his secretary.

In the resignation he tendered to RDP President Kim Yong-sam, Rep. Kim said the party should take proper measures against the "hoodlums."

Kim Tae-chung's Position, Realignment Viewed

SK1701013090 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 17 Jan 90 p 2

[News analysis by staff reporter Yu Kun-ha: "Kim Tae-chung at Cross Roads of Political Merger"]

[Text] Will Kim Tae-chung be left isolated in the midst of a turbulent move to transform the present political structure? Or does he have any hidden cards on the table to foil what he feels is a joint attempt by his rivals to isolate him?

The key to the answer appears to be in the hands of President No Tae-u who has not yet announced his stance. No has maintained an ambivalent position on political realignment. While acknowledging a need to alter the present political system, he has repeatedly emphasized the wisdom of a prudent and considerate approach.

But No appears to have made up his mind and his decision is against the PPD [Party for Peace and Democracy] leader. Although No has agreed with Kim during their recent talks that the political status quo needs to be maintained for some time, this agreement could simply be lip service to the president of the No. 1 opposition party.

This impression can be validated by the moves of the two key proponents of political restructuring. After his talks with No, NDRP [New Democratic Republican Party] President Kim Chong-pil abandoned his cautious approach and embraced his partner Kim Yong-sam's bolder viewpoint. Together, the two now argue that the earlier the restructuring, the better. Political analysts suggest that Kim Chong-pil took the cue from No.

This analysis is further supported by another indication. After his meetings with the three Kims, No instructed DJP [Democratic Justice Party] Chairman Pak Tae-chun to come up with plans for the ruling party to spearhead the political restructuring.

Although No said that the plan should be mapped out from a long-term perspective, his instruction could be construed as a sign that the DJP has begun to move in the direction of seeking a new political structure.

The DJP seems to have three options in reshaping the current political framework. The first one s to seek an alliance with the PPD. The second one is to collaborate with Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil in their creation of a new party uniting all "conservative democratic" forces. The last one is to remain independent and let the two Kims form a new party.

The first option is viewed by many as unrealistic, given the enormous differences in ideology and power bases between the two parties. PPD President Kim Tae-chung has also made it clear that it is inconceivable for his party to join hands with the DJP.

The third scenario is highly likely but it has to be assessed in the context of selecting a candidate for the next presidential election. Political analysts point out that the most serious problem for the ruling party is its lack of a nationally popular politician capable of facing Kim Tae-chung or Kim Yong-sam.

Given no heir apparent to No, they say, the party cannot be assured of victory in the next presidential election, or, if it manages to win, the political situation would not be much different from the current one.

The analysts, in this sense, view the second option as the most probable. They argue that No has already decided to accept it and that the last unknown is when an earnest attempt to renovate the present landscape will be launched.

Then the answer to the question of whether Kim Tae-chung would be isolated or not is clear. But will he simply be forced to accept a new structure in which his party is downgraded to a small opposition party?

Kim said recently that he would go the lonely way of an opposition leader if he has to. Although he has repeatedly denounced the realignment movement as a bid to isolate him, he seems prepared to accept the isolation as hit lot. His criticism is not a desperate atempt to block the realignment but an act taken because he cannot turn the political situation to his disadvantage.

Kim apparently believes that the conceived united front of conservative forces is designed to "Japanize" politics.

NDRP leader Kim Chong-pil has said that his project is to create a force capable of leading the nation in stability for at least 30 years. This perspective is obviously inspired by the Japanese political situation in which the Liberal Democratic Party has continued to maintain power throughout the postwar years.

Kim Tae-chung's opposition to this framework, some political watchers point out, has not been articulated. The main weakness of the so-called Japanized politics is that they are prone to corruption. Analysts say that because the LDP has held power so long, Japanese politics are incomparably corrupt.

Kim's opposition has been largely at the level of self-defense and lacks the positive will to upgrade domestic political standards by helping domestic politicians gain a semblance of the respect lawmakers in advanced countries enjoy.

If Kim is ready to go the way of a lonely oppositionist, the analysts say, he needs to induce politicians favoring his political line to rally behind him and strive to expand his political base by absorbing new elements—labor union leaders, for example.

As evidenced by a group of young and senior RDP lawmakers, the envisaged formation of a "grand" conservative party is bound to generate a strong backlash which Kim can take advantage of. If he positively copes with the realignment movement, the PPD leader will not wind up on the losing side.

YONHAP Views Political Realignment Question

SK1301121590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0923 GMT 13 Jan 90

[By Hong Sang-pyo]

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 13 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u may have laid the foundation for "politics of cooperation and compromise" with the opposition, but he is dragging his feet on strong calls for realignment of South Korea's political system since it will have a major impact on the remainder of his term in office as well as the nation's future.

No has begun the third year of his presidency with private talks with the heads of the three opposition parties in which he deeply debated the surface issue of political restructuring as well as pending national problems, including democratization, inter-Korean matters, economic difficulties, local elections and people's livelihood.

Opposition leaders Kim Tae-chung and Kim Yong-sam have agreed to join forces with the president to tackle economic, labor and social problems and questions regarding reunification of the Korean peninsula, saying they will cooperate to ensure stability and promote national interests in the 1990s.

But No and the opposition heads differ, basically or technically, over whether, how or when they should push for reshaping of the political structure, which was once hailed by political commentators as "the golden section" of Korea's parliamentary democracy.

The 1988 general elections awarded the three opposition parties a combined majority in the National Assembly, a situation unprecedented in Korea, where parliamentary history has known only the plague of a strong ruling party's arbitrariness.

No's Democratic Justice Party, which has 128 of the 299 seats, was first to voice discontent with the situation. It said it could not effectively carry out state and legislative affairs because of the strong opposition, which it accused of pursuing partisan interests and undermining political stability.

The opposition parties, estranged by their self-serving policy positions and the ambition of their leaders to be president, also began lodging doubts about the arrangement.

Kim Yong-sam, leader of the Reunification Democratic Party (RDP), and Kim Chong-pil, head of the New Democratic Republican Party (NDRP), started moving to reshape the structure and possibly merge their two parties when the drawn-out liquidation of remnants of former president Chon Tu-hwan's rule was pronounced over with Chon's yearend testimony before the National Assembly.

Kim Yong-sam says the current structure is unable to adequately cope with new political circumstances, the issue of reunification of the Korean peninsula or international developments, and that political, social and economic instability as well as distrust of politics will grow if nothing is done.

His position appears to a large measure designed to weaken archrival Kim Tae-chung's status as top opposition leader and isolate him.

The moves of the PPD and NDRP heads, seen as a gamble risking their political lives, have forced No to enter the debate, and thus they have virtually put their fate in his hands.

Kim Tae-chung, head of the largest opposition party, the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD), takes enormous pride in his leading role in state and legislative affairs and is fiercely resisting the moves by the other two Kims to create an alliance between their parties and other moderate groups.

No reportedly shares the fears of Kim Tae-chung, though for other reasons, and has declared his support for Kim's position that realignment of the four-party system should not take place "artificially or hastily." But by the next day, in a meeting with Kim Yong-sam on friday, the president seemed to have slightly modified his stand on restructuring. No was quoted as saying he will "carefully consider" realigning the political structure after he has

reviewed opinions from various walks of life and changes in the political situation as he thinks "restructuring is very important for the democratic development of the nation."

His remarks were basically an amicable response to the RDP leader's position, but may be construed as implying that No actually wants realignment, analysts said.

No met with Kim Chong-pil on Saturday in the last of his private talks with the opposition leaders.

No may tacitly support moves to reshape the political system until there is a solid plan for change, the analysts said.

The president, who heads the ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP), may also take steps on his own to draw political allegiances, not in the form of an alliance as the RDP and NDRP leaders envision but as a "grand integration of conservative and centrist forces," the analysts said.

The aim of No's "grand integration" is to seize enough seats in the assembly to give his party back the majority it lost in 1988 and to create the political circumstances for the DJP to stay in power after he steps down in 1993 after serving out a single five-year term, according to the analysts.

Of some comfort to No may be that the three opposition leaders have agreed to follow his lead in handling inter-Korean matters, which are expected to be another of the top political issues this year. They have promise to cooperate in No's conduct of his reunification policy and northern diplomacy to improve relations with communist countries.

Parties Should Preserve Spirit of Local Autonomy

SK1001010890 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 10 Jan 90 p 2

[News analysis by staff reporter Yu Kun-ha: "Parties Gearing Up To Take Lead in Local Council Elections"]

[Text] With the scheduled implementation of local autonomy system only months away, political parties are moving briskly to secure vantage points in local council elections.

But their political maneuvering seems to be generating concern about the success of communalism, which is being reintroduced in Korea after a 30-year absence.

From the start of this year, the entire political circle has been sizzling in the heat of creating a new political order and reshaping partisan politics.

The ruling DJP [Democratic Justice party], though it has not yet mounted, at least on the surface, any serious campaign for political realignment, is probably most eager to change the balance in its favor.

Its eagerness has been demonstrated by a proposal to include a provision in the revised Local Autonomy Act allowing political parties to jointly nominate candidates for local councils.

Its intention is obviously to gain a foothold in areas, especially Cholla Province and Pusan, where it has virtually no political base at all, through the formation of an electoral bloc with parties which have a strong presence there.

The potential ally of the ruling party in this project is the PPD [Party for Peace and Democracy], given the merger movement between the RDP [Reunification Democratic Party], based in Pusan, and the NDRP [New Democratic Republican Party], strong in Chungchong Province.

The PPD appears to be entertaining similar thoughts as the DJP, though its is now denying such rumors, considering PPD President Kim Tae-chung's longstanding ambition for presidential power. He regards the adoption of the local autonomy system as the necessary stepping stone for the fulfillment of his ambition.

The alliance between the DJP and PPD, even though it may be temporary and criticized as a "marriage of convenience," will help mitigate the strong regional antagonism which is embodied in the present four-party political landscape.

But such an alliance would not do much to modernize politics, as is argued by RDP President Kim Yong-sam. Kim blasted the DJP and PPD for seeking partial formation of an electoral bloc "out of partisan interests."

Kim stresses that what is needed at this time is a fundamental change in the present political order and that for this, he pursues a merger between the RDP and NDRP. Political rhetoric aside, however, what Kim really wants is creation of a bigger opposition party than the PPD, which is led by his archrival Kim Tae-chung.

The creation of a new conservative party as envisaged by the RDP's Kim would not by itself establish a new political order. On this point, NDRP leader Kim Chong-pil's perspective is more persuasive. He has repeatedly pointed out that a new order will be created when the political circle is regrouped, spontaneously and not artificially, into conservatives and progressives.

Although this perspective may be correct, the NDRP leader appears to be moving in the wrong direction. What politicians do first in reshaping the political order, if we follow this line of thought, is then to help a progressive force establish itself as a counterweight against the predominant conservatives groups.

In sum, it could be argued that all four parties are basically concerned about how to make the best use of local council elections in consolidating or broadening their power bases. To attain this goal, they have to tighten their grip on their local party chapters and exercize unchallenged power in forming candidate lists.

This obviously goes against the fundamental spirit of communalism. Power concentration is already at serious levels in all four political parties. If we accept the argument that adoption of the local autonomy system is meant to decentralize the power of the central government, it should be applied to political parties.

It is reasonable that the narrowly-based political parties seek to broaden their presence and penetrate regional communities. But in doing this, they are advised to respect the genuine spirit of local autonomy. It is in this context that many political observers are concerned about the spill-over of the negative effects of "central politics" into "local politics."

It seems that the importance of political parties practicing democracy in party management cannot be overemphasized. Many believe that democratic politics will flower when they are practiced at the lowest levels. The implementation of the local autonomy system should serve as an occasion for Korean politics to be democratized and modernized "from below."

The present keen competition among parties is feared to impinge upon the planned introduction of communalism. What seems to be at stake is not a simple reshaping of the political structure but a fundamental change in political thinking and practice.

The four parties are expected to begin negotiations soon on legislating local council election laws and enforcement decrees on the management of local councils. Partisan interests differ on these matters. But they should be more concerned about preserving the true spirit of local autonomy than anything else.

Presidential Aides Pay New Year Visit to Chon

SK1701005490 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Jan 90 p 2

[Text] Presidential secretary-general Hong Song-chol, accompanied by senior secretary of civil petitions Chong Ku-yong, paid call on former president Chon Tu-hwan at Paektam-sa temple yesterday.

Presidential spokesman Yi Su-chung said their visit was a kind of New Year greeting, dismissing possible speculation that some "substantial" talks took place.

Opinion Poll Taken on Chon Tu-hwan's Testimony

SK1501124390 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 4 Jan 90 p 1

[Article by Chong Chul-to, head of the opinion poll department]

[Text] It has been learned that 80.7 percent of our country's male and female adults thought that former President Chon-Tu-hwan's testimony at the National Assembly that was held on 31 December of last year was dishonest; 72.9 percent of them thought that regardless of the testimony by Mr Chon, the issue of the Fifth Republic has not yet been liquidated; and 62.2 percent of them thought that during Chon's testimony there was no sign of an apology. However, 52.5 percent of them said that 'it is appropriate to call it quits,' on the question of how to deal with the issue of liquidating the Fifth Republic in the future. Of them, 46 percent said that 'the truth of the issue of the Fifth Republic irregularities and the Kwangju incident and those responsible must be further revealed.' This showed that the opinion by those for and against the issue of liquidating the Fifth Republic was almost divided into two. This was revealed in an opinion poll conducted by our company's opinion poll department. They conducted a telephone survey of 1,576 adults over the age of twenty on the evening of 3 January (institution of servicing the survey was the Seoul Marketing Survey Company).

In the survey, the first question was whether or not Mr Chon's testimony at the National Assembly was honest. Among the respondents, only 17.2 percent said that he was 'honest,' while 80.7 percent said that he was 'dishonest.' This showed that the overwhelming majority believe that Mr Chon's testimony was far from the truth. For reference, in a survey by our company on Mr Chon's apology statement on 23 November, 1988, before going to Paekdam Temple, 31 percent said that his apology statement was 'convincing,' while 43 percent said that it was :unconvincing.' Therefore, responses on whether or not Mr Chon's testimony this time was honest were considerably worse than a year before.

In this survey there was also a question on whether or not 'the issue of the Fifth Republic has been liquidated through the testimony at the National Assembly.' It is noteworthy that only 25 percent said that it was 'liquidated,' while 72.9 percent, the absolute majority, said that it was 'not liquidated.' Especially, 41.8 percent showed a very negative response by saying that 'nothing has been liquidated.'

On the question of 'how the issue of the Fifth Republic should be dealt with in the future,' 52.5 percent of the respondents said that 'it is appropriate to call it quits on this issue,' while 46 percent said that 'the issue of the Fifth Republic irregularities and the Kwangju incident and those responsible must be further revealed.' Even though the public opinion on whether or not Mr Chon's testimony was honest, his attitude of apology, and the situation of liquidating the Fifth Republic, was very negative, almost half of the respondents said that the issue of liquidating the Fifth Republic 'should end at this point.' This phenomenon can be explained from the fact that there will be a sense of crisis among the people if political and social discord continues to surround the issue of liquidating the Fifth Republic, and that most of the people recognize the fact that there is no other choice in liquidating the issue of the Fifth Republic than by the current compromise between the ruling and opposition parties.

Police Search for Dissident Labor Activist

SK1301011690 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 13 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] Labor activists pledged to push ahead with inauguration of a nationwide labor federation called "Chonnohyop" [National Council of Labor Unions] for its Korean acronym Jan. 22, independent of the sole state-approved Federation of Korean Trade Unions [FKTU].

Chonnohyop's preparatory committee told reporters yesterday that labor unions would complete their union representatives' meetings separately by Jan. 19 and would inaugurate Chonnohyop at 1 p.m. Jan. 22 as scheduled.

But the preparatory committee, headed by Tan Pyong-ho, did not disclose where the planned gathering would take place.

Meanwhile, police have launched a massive manhunt for Tan and other labor activists, armed with a court-issued arrest warrant, for their alleged roles in sponsoring illegal and violent rallies to promote Chonnohyop.

Members of the preparatory committee said they will try hard to effectively implement the 44-hour work week system, increase wages enough to cover living costs and stage a joint struggle for securing public support and strengthening the foundation of Chonnohyop.

They said they would form a front among labor activists to fight against "suppression" of their activities.

The committee said unions affiliated with Chonnohyop will make concerted efforts to protect workers' rights, breaking away from what they called "pro-government and undemocratic activities" by FKTU, a committee spokesman said.

He said the committee criticized the government and employers for trying to exaggerate the current economic conditions and for holding workers responsible for the situation.

Progress Expected in Telecommunications Talks

SK1201115090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0903 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 12 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the United States will have their fourth round of telecommunications talks Jan. 19-22 in Hawaii to conclude Seoul's market opening by the February deadline, the Communications Ministry said Friday.

Delegates will discuss telecommunications equipment and services on the first two days and public purchases of telecommunications equipment on the final day.

"Both sides are unlikely to come together in the service part, though great progress is expected in the equipment and public purchase sectors," a statement said.

The United States listed Korea as a priority foreign country for unfair trade practices in the telecommunications market last February, giving a one-year period for negotiations to correct the alleged wrongs. Korea agreed to ease import standards for telecommunications equipment and follow GATT accords in most public purchases during the third round of talks last month in Seoul.

On the tariff for equipment, Korea has refused to cut the rate below 8 percent while the United States wants it lowered to 3-5 percent. The United States also demanded a wider range of competitive service sectors than value added networks as Korea has proposed.

* Electronics Industry's Prospects Analyzed

902C0058 Seoul CHUGAN MAEKYONG in Korean 2 Nov 89 pp 74-75

[Text]

"From the Vacuum-Tube Radios to the Latest Robots"

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the birth of Korean electronics industry.

The Korean electronics industry, which started with the manufacture of vacuum-tube radios in 1959, has shown a remarkable growth. It surpassed the textile industry last year to become the first in exports. It will undoubtedly be the nucleus of the future Korean industry.

In celebration of its 30th anniversary, the Korean electronics industry, under the guidance of the Korean Electronics Industry Promotion Association, organized the "1989-Korean Electronics Fair" which opened on 7 October and lasted for 6 days. Some well known personalities in the electronics industry from developed countries, such as the United States and Japan, were invited to participate in the international symposium titled "The Future of World Electronics Industry in the 21st Century." Also the representatives from Korea and the United States attended the first electronics conference which is scheduled to become an annual event. In addition, a book on the 30-year history of the electronics industry will be published.

Let us look into the 30-year-growth history of the Korean electronics industry.

The production of vacuum-tube radios by Goldstar in 1959 marked the official birth of the Korean electronics industry. Counting from this genesis, we arrive at the 30th anniversary this year.

From every point of view (i.e., the technology; market; raw-material; and finance), the conditions in our electronics industry at the time were extremely unfavorable and almost barren.

However, the combined result of the high productivity of the workers and the government's help in the strategic

policymaking, as well as dynamic management by industrialists, made it possible to export the first electronics products 3 years later in 1963.

For the full-scale promotion of the electronics industry, the government passed the "Electronics Industry Promotion Law" in 1969. With the help of this legislation, the industry was able to achieve the $100 million mark in exports in 1972. Exports reached the dizzying height of $1 billion in 1976 followed by $10 billion in 1987.

Progress in the growth of the electronics industry shows no sign of lessening, and the industry has been growing steadily ever since. The industry's export reached over $15.1 billion, one-fourth of our total exports, last year. It is now the number-one export industry in the nation, surpassing textiles.

To look at the total productivity of the Korean electronics industry, it shows an annual growth rate of 35 percent from $100 million in the 1970's to reach $23.5 billion last year. Now it ranks sixth in the world following the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, and England.

According to the "World Electronics Data Book," the total production of the world electronics industry was $59.3 billion in 1970. Korea's share was $100 million at the time, barely the 0.2 percent of the world's total productivity.

The total productivity of the world electronics industry last year was $591.7 billion. Korea's share was $23.5 billion, which came to 4.0 percent of the world's total productivity. This means that the Korean electronics industry has grown 20-fold in 18 years.

From the technology's point of view, Korean industry was capable of producing only radios in the 1950's. Black and white TV's were produced in the 1960's followed by color TV's in the 1970's. In the 1980's, however, the industry has matured enough to produce more advanced electronics products, such as computers, laser communication, semiconductors, etc. For example, in the field of memory-chip/semiconductor our industry can compete with the world's industrial giants now.

The development of the electronics industry contributed greatly to increased employment and to the cultural enrichment of the public as well as to the economic growth of the nation.

There were only 21 electronics companies in the country in 1962, but the number increased to 1,357 by 1988. Accordingly, the number of workers increased from 2,000 in 1962 to 512,000 in 1988.

Due to improved technology in home appliances, the price of these products decreased, enabling many households to own more home appliances then before.

According to the Korea Electronics Industry Promotion Association, the distribution rate in homes grew from 52.5 percent in 1981 to 95 percent in 1988 for refrigerators, from 21 percent to 104 percent in the color TV's, from 0.6 percent to 21 percent for VTR's, and 45.4 percent to 101.4 percent for cassette-players during the same period.

The advancement in electronics equipment for industrial use has also shown a parallel growth to that of home appliances. There were only 126 computers for public use in 1976. Last year, however, there were 1,550 robots for industrial use; 8,249 robots for public use; and 320,000 personal computers in the nation. It is a remarkable increase indeed.

The reason for achieving such a breathtaking growth in the electronics industry was due to the abundance of superior manpower and the low wage-scale in our country.

In addition, credit should be given to the government's effort to retain investments by foreign countries and its strategic promotion of the export industry. Also one cannot ignore the ceaseless efforts of industrialists who have worked to secure export markets overseas.

Lately, however, the uncertain conditions overseas as well as within our country threaten the continuous growth of the electronics industry at the same rate.

Due to the exchange-rate increase of the won and raises in workers' wages, our advantage in the world's price war is diminishing. And the walls of protectionism in the developed countries are growing higher.

Because the advanced electronics industry requires little natural resource, it is an important field of industry for a country like ours which lacks natural resources of its own. Since the 21st century is recognized as the age of communication, the importance of the electronics industry will become even greater in the future.

Except in a limited number of fields, however, most areas of our electronics industry still have many problems. The level of our technology lags considerably behind the more advanced countries like Japan while the late-starting countries like China are catching up with us.

It may be more realistic to say that we should yield the manufacturing of the common electronics products to the late-starting countries and concentrate instead in the production of the most advanced electronics products.

In spite of the difficulties encountered due to the recession and the unfavorable conditions in and outside the country, our industry must invest enough capital in the research and the development program to advance in skill and technology so that our industry can compete in the overseas market and maintain the status of a country with an advanced electronics industry.

The Development Process of the Korean Electronics Industry

Date	Development
1958	Radios
1960	Mechanical Telephone Equipment
1962	Condensers; Export Radios; Mechanical Circuit (Strowger)
1965	Investment by a Foreign Country (Komi Semiconductor)
1966	Entry of Fairchild Company; Assembly-line Production of Semiconductors; Black/White TV's
1967	Introduction of Computer (IBM 1401)
1969	Legislation of Electronics Industry Promotion Law; First Korean Electronics Fair
1970	Establishment of the Korea Electronics Products Export Association; Establishment of Masan Free Export Area
1971	Establishment of Koomi Electronics Industrial Complex; Production-level: $100 million
1972	Export-level: $100 million
1974	Production/Export of Color TV's
1976	Inauguration of the Korea Electronics Industry Promotion Association; Establishment of the Korea Electronics-Technology Research Institute; Production/Export-level: $1 billion
1978	Inauguration of the Department of Electronics and Electric Industry within the Ministry of Commerce and Industry; Voluntary Restriction on the Color TV-Export to the United States
1979	Laser Communication Test; Electronic Circuit (analog); VTR, Microwave Oven; Asia Electronics Federation met in Seoul
1980	Construction of the Business Computer Plant; Color TV televised in Korea
1981	Electronics Industry Promotion Law revised; Establishment of the plans to Advance the Level of Electronics Industry; Special Consumption Tax and Temporary Tax Applied to certain products, like VTR; Construction of Color TV Plant overseas
1982	Establishment of the Korea Data Communication Corporation
1983	Development of 64 K DRAM [Dynamic random access memory]; Boom of Personal Computers; Big Increase of the Digital Electronics-Department in Colleges
1984	UNIX OS [operating system] Porting
1985	Establishment of the Semiconductor/Computer-Research Association
1986	Development of 256 K DRAM; Legislation of the Industry Development Law; Korean-made Digital Circuit; Development of 4 mm VTR; Production-level: $10 billion
1987	Development of 1 M DRAM; Export-level: $11 billion; Promotion of the Development of Basic Industrial Technology; Exhibition-use of the Korean Database Network
1988	Development/Supply of the Computer System for 1988 Seoul Olympic Games; Restriction on the Electronics Products-Import Lifted; Aggressive Investment Overseas in Electronics Industry; Establishment of the Law To Promote the Computer-Program-Development

Two More Males Found Infected With AIDS

SK1101015690 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 11 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] A 28-year-old man, who sold his blood to a pharmaceutical firm, and another oceangoing seaman have tested positive for AIDS antibodies, the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs announced.

The unemployed man, identified only as Kim, was confirmed to be infected with the AIDS virus when he underwent an AIDS test while selling his plasma to Green Cross Corp., the ministry said.

He is the first AIDS virus carrier to be detected while selling his blood to a blood products maker.

The ministry instructed Green Cross to destroy Kim's plasma infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which causes the killer disease.

Ministry officials said they were looking into how Kim got infected with HIV and whether he donated his blood.

The officials said they have ruled out the possibility that blood products made with HIV-infected plasma could transmit the AIDS virus because they undergo a sterilization process twice.

The oceangoing seaman was confirmed as sero-positive when he took an AIDS test upon returning home from an overseas trip.

Report on Hepatitis B Among Male Office Workers

SK1301012890 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 13 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] Pusan—About 8 percent of male office workers in this port city have contracted hepatitis B-type, nearly 40 times the incidence rate of the disease in the United States, according to a recent health survey.

A health check-up of 23,000 male insurance subscribers in downtown Pusan showed that some 8 percent or 1,835 office workers were confirmed to be hepatitis B carriers.

Among the virus carriers are 300 people carrying hepatitis B-type E antigen, believed to be the most infectious type.

Dr. Yu Yong-pan, director of Kwangsan Hospital who conducted the liver tests, said that in serious cases, hepatitis B-type can develop into such fatal diseases as cirrhosis of the liver and liver cancer.

He said Koreans must quit the habit of sharing drinking cups, a major channel of infection for the disease.

Dr. Yi Tok-hyong, an official at the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, said people suffering from hepatitis B have a 2 to 3 percent chance of developing cirrhosis of the liver and liver cancer.

People are more likely to contract the contagious disease through sexual contact and sharing unsanitary injection needless and other medical equipment, he said.

Burma

Aung San Suu Kyi Said Banned From Elections

BK1701012790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1908 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Rangoon, Jan 16 (AFP)—Burma's opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, under house arrest since July, has been banned from running in the country's upcoming elections by Rangoon's electoral authorities, sources in her party said here Tuesday. The ban came with a ruling by Rangoon's elections sub-commission rejecting the candidacy of Aung San Suu Kyi, the 44-year-old daughter of Burma's independence hero General Aung San, on the grounds that she maintained "unlawful associations with insurgent groups," the National League for Democracy (NLD) sources said.

The multi-party elections, the first in Burma in almost 30 years, are slated for May 27.

Burma's military government guaranteed after seizing power in a September 1988 coup to put down a nationwide pro-democracy movement that the elections would be free and fair. But the ban placed on Aung San Suu Kyi, if confirmed, follows a similar move taken by the authorities against another prominent opposition leader, former Prime Minister U Nu, 83, the last elected head of government in Burma.

Aung San Suu Kyi, NLD secretary general, was placed under house arrest in July for up to one year after Rangoon's military government accused her of inciting unrest.

Fellow NLD leader former General Tin U was also confined to his home at the same time, but he was later sentenced to three years imprisonment and hard labour, which also bars him from taking part in the elections.

The NLD sources said that Aung San Suu Kyi's elections agent Aye Win had entered a plea Tuesday requesting a revision of the decision by the elections sub-commission. The sub-commission upheld an appeal by rival candidate Labang Grawng, who is running in the same constituency in Rangoon as Aung San Suu Kyi had intended to, the sources said.

If confirmed, the ruling would overturn a decision last week by the electoral authorities waiving an objection against Aung San Suu Kyi's candidacy by Mr. Labang Grawng, a candidate for the National Unity Party (NUP), a party believed to enjoy the support of the military authorities.

Mr. Labang Grawng objected to Aung San Suu Kyi's candidacy on the grounds that she had alleged connections with illegal organizations, that she was married to a foreign national, British university teacher Michael Aris, and that she allegedly had no permanent residency in Burma. Before being put under house arrest, she had launched a campaign drawing huge crowds nationwide and had emerged as the lead spokesman for the pro-democracy opposition.

The government has said that the confinement order was reached in view of her confrontational attitude, charging that she was instigating unrest and sowing dissension between the armed forces and the people.

A number of insurgent movements have been fighting government forces since Burma gained independence from Britain in 1948, mainly in remote jungle areas where ethnic minorities live.

The Burmese Communist Party (BCP) is one of the anti-Rangoon insurgent movements, and there have been accusations from military circles that NLD officials had connections with the BCP.

U Nu was also put under house arrest late last month after he refused to dissolve a "parallel government" that he had resurrected shortly before the 1988 coup.

U Nu, who was deposed as prime minister by a 1962 coup by former Burmese strongman General Ne Win, has been formally banned from taking part in the elections.

NLD Appeals Aung San Suu Kyi Ban

BK1701113890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1117 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Rangoon, Jan 17 (AFP)—The National League for Democracy (NLD) party has submitted an official request asking Burma's Multi-Party Elections Commission to reverse the decision banning NLD head Aung San Suu Kyi from standing in general elections on May 27. The NLD's statement came following the rejection of Aung San Suu Kyi's candidacy by a divisional-level sub-commission reacting to objections put up by National Unity Party candidate Labang Grawng, who is running in the same constituency.

Mr. Labang Grawng's charge that Aung San Suu Kyi was not a resident of Burma but a British citizen and had links with an unlawful organization had on January 10 been rejected by the township zone sub-commission which sustained her candidacy. Mr. Labang Grawng appealed for a reversal, which he won.

According to the NLD statement issued Wednesday the Rangoon division sub-commision's decision to reject Aung San Suu Kyi's candidacy was made on Monday. "It was not until 5 p.m. on January 16 (Tuesday) that Aye Win, Aung San Suu Kyi's election agent, was summoned and told of the reversal," the statement said.

The NLD has asked the Elections Commission to reject the latest decision of the Rangoon division sub-commission and sustain the January 10 decision of the township zone sub-commission. This would allow Aung San Suu Kyi to participate from Rangoon's Bahan Township Constituency 1, where she has been restricted to her home since last July 20. She was placed under house arrest under a law protecting the state from "disruptive elements."

Former General Tin U, who was "restricted" under the same act, has since been tried and sentenced to three years' rigorous imprisonment.

The NLD's request for a review is based on the right of appeal under an article of the Election Law which states that in election matters the commission "has the power to call for the proceedings and documents suo moto of each sub-commission as it deems fit and study and decide accordingly."

Kachins Back Aung San Suu Kyi

BK1401013790 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Jan 90 p 4

[Text] Leaders of a minority group, the Kachins, who oppose the Burmese Government, yesterday expressed full support for Burma's main opposition leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, if she runs in the scheduled May 27 general election.

The Kachin leaders also condemned comments by two Kachins—Labang Grong and Ding Ra Tang—who claim that Aung San Suu Kyi is not eligible to stand because she is married to Englishman Michael Aris.

Chairman of the Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO) Brang Seng said the two Kachins who criticised the popular opposition figure had always been used by the Saw Maung military government.

He described Aung San Suu Kyi's Kachin critics as active members of the Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) before the 1988 pro-democracy uprising, who had joined the military-backed National Unity Party (NUP)—the BSPP's successor—after Gen Saw Maung's takeover in September, 1988.

Labang Grong, in his 70s, is one of the signatories of the Panglong Agreement and is a member of the BSPP.

Ding Ra Tang, 65, headed the Kachin State Government during U Nu's government, before the coup d'etat by Gen Ne Win in 1962.

Labang Grong is supposed to run against Aung San Suu Kyi in Bahan-1 constituency in Rangoon.

According to a KIO press release, Gen Saw Maung and his Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) are trying to stir up anti-Kachin sentiment among Burmans.

In this way, the military government, indirectly, is trying to hit the KIO, an armed ethnic resistance group, which is beginning to win the trust of Burmans because of its policy of racial harmony and its struggle against the SLORC.

The KIO release strongly condemned the divide-and-rule policy and deplored Labang Grong and Ding Ra Tang's willingness to play along with the SLORC.

The Kachin leaders said what the SLORC was doing might not be known by the outside world, but those living in Burma were aware of the strategy.

Kachin people, like all other ethnic groups in Burma, support Aung San Suu Kyi, the daughter of Burma's independence hero Gen Aung San, said the release.

Aung San Suu Kyi visited the Kachin State last summer and was warmly welcomed by the Kachins, the KIO said.

Resistance Group Supports Boycott Call

BK1201073590 Bangkok THE NATION in English 12 Jan 90 p 2

[By Yindi Loertcharoenchok]

[Excerpt] The largest Burmese resistance group during a recent meeting threw its support behind a call by dissident students for a boycott on all contact with the present Burmese regime.

The Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB), in a statement issued after a meeting last month, warned that countries that have dealings with the Rangoon government installed by Gen Saw Maung could face adverse consequences.

"The DAB firmly warns these countries that dealings with the hated military junta of Rangoon are only short-term and will not be excused by the people," the statement read.

The DAB's Dec 18-22 meeting also saw the formation of a five-member Central Presidium led by Karen leader Gen Bo Mya, and the replacement of DAB Secretary for Foreign Affairs Ye Kyaw Thu with Dr Em Ata of the Karen National Union. [passage omitted]

Youths Return After Training With Communists

BK1701143390 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Ten youths, who underwent military training at the Pangsang headquarters of the Burma Communist Party, gave themselves up at a reception camp in Lashio on 8 January. The youths had taken part in the 1988 disturbances and went away after 18 September 1988 when the military assumed responsibilities for the country. [passage omitted]

Rangoon Reports Attacks by Ethnic Rebels 16 Jan

BK1701070890 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Excerpts] KNU [Karen National Union] insurgents have been disrupting local peace and tranquility and opening fire and planting mines at passenger vehicles at checkpoints.

At 1240 on 15 January a time bomb exploded near a border checkpoint in Myawadi. The bomb was planted in a detergent box by KNU insurgents posing as merchants. The bomb explosion killed a customs employee and wounded 10 passengers. [passage omitted]

At about 1530 on the same day about 50 KNU insurgents attacked a passenger car between Tadagyo and Singok villages on Kawkareik-Myawadi route, wounding five innocent passengers. [passage omitted]

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

'No Special Privileges' for Former Communists

BK1301073090 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] No special privileges will be given to former members of the banned Communist Party of Malaya [CPM] who opt to return to Malaysia. The prime minister, Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, says they will have to abide by the Constitution and the laws of the country. He points out that the return of the former members is not an extraordinary matter. Former members like Musa Ahmad [former party chairman] have already returned. Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir, who is also the minister of home affairs, emphasizes that no land will be given to the former members although the Thai Government is willing to do so.

The prime minister was speaking at the first ever parade to mark Rela or the People's Volunteers Corps day in Kuala Lumpur this morning. He said the government was willing to accept the laying down of arms by the CPM. This means border areas which have been undeveloped can now be developed.

Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir paid tribute to Thailand which helped the government contain the communist threat. He said with the end of the communist threat, the role of the Armed Forces, especially Rela would have to change. The 15,000 Rela members will now be utilized for civic activities and further development of the country. The prime minister disclosed that all state governments would be asked to mobilize Rela members, especially in the drive to eradicate poverty.

Officials To Discuss Refugee Return With SRV

BK1601132990 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 15 Jan 90 p 1

[By Azman Ahmad]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Sunday [14 January]—Foreign Ministry officials will meet their Vietnamese counterparts in Hanoi from Jan 31 to Feb 3 to discuss the problem of Vietnamese boat people seeking refuge here.

The delegation headed by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Datuk Ahmad Kamil Jaafar will discuss, among others, the repatriation of Vietnamese refugees who seek first asylum in the country.

"We have to find a new mechanism to solve the boat people problem and those who do not qualify for refugee status will be sent back in stages," a Wisma Putera [Malaysian Foreign Ministry] official said.

Malaysia had implemented the screening process for new arrivals under the comprehensive plan of action adopted by 56 countries at a UN-sponsored conference held in June 1988.

Under the plan, it was decided that a "cut-off date" be introduced from March 14 last year. Boat people arriving in first asylum countries before that date are guaranteed resettlement in third countries.

However, those who arrived after March 14 last year would be "screened" and those who do not qualify as political refugees would be repatriated.

It was learnt that the number of Vietnamese who landed in Malaysian shores before March 14 last year numbered 9,000 of whom some 4,000 were resettled over a six-month period.

But since the "cut-off date," about 11,000 more have landed with nearly 500 in December last year, laying bare allegations that Malaysia is pushing away the boats.

"Since 1980, we only managed to send back 33 Vietnamese refugees who wanted to be repatriated," the official said.

The official said since the Vietnamese Government did not condone forced repatriation, Malaysia had to seek other alternatives to solve the problem.

More Boat People Want To Return to Vietnam

BK1201133890 Hong Kong AFP in English 9848 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 12 (AFP)—Vietnamese boat people in Malaysia are showing more interest in voluntarily returning home, a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) official said Friday [12 January]. Eighteen boat people went home last year and the UNHCR office was processing 67 more applications for the voluntary repatriation programme, deputy representative Janet Lim said.

"More than 100 people have expressed interest (in the programme). It is moving along slowly but you have to compare with the past 14 years when nothing moved," Miss Lim said. A Malaysian Foreign Ministry official said recently that six Vietnamese who expressed interest in returning home early last year had still not been repatriated.

He said Foreign Ministry officials would go to Hanoi later this month or in February for talks on repatriating boat people not given refugee status under a screening process adopted at an international conference in Geneva in June to separate genuine refugees fleeing political persecution from economic migrants.

Those among the 20,415 boat people in Malaysian camps screened as refugees would be eligible for resettlement in a third country. Refugee officials said that since August Malaysia had been screening three to four boat people daily to determine their status, but no results had yet been reached.

Diplomats said Malaysia was still pushing off refugees from its shores and the figure recently reached 3,471 since the push-offs started in June last year.

Forestry Cooperation Discussed With Burma

BK1501102890 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0728 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 15 (BERNAMA)—Myanma [Burma] has invited Malaysian entrepreneurs to participate in the reconstruction of its economy, according to Malaysian Primary Industries Minister Dr Lim Keng Yaik.

He told newsmen Monday [15 January] after meeting the visiting Myanma Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Maj Gen Chit Swe that Malaysian entrepreneurs with the technology are welcome to start joint-venture projects especially in rubber wood industry. He said Myanma has over 100,000 hectares of rubber estates for tapping and replanting and the country needs Malaysia's technology and expertise in this industry.

During the meeting, the two ministers discussed the need for Myanma and ASEAN countries to be aware of allegations by Western environmentalist groups against natural rain forest conservation efforts by the respective countries. These groups had been trying to pressure Malaysia and other countries in the region to stop exploiting the forestry sector, especially logging without really understanding the issue.

Dr Lim said like Malaysia, Myanma also practises "sustained yield forest management" system which enables harvesting and preservation of such resources simultaneously.

They also discussed the possibility of listing all the tropical timber found in Malaysia, Myanma, and other ASEAN countries under common names to avoid confusion among consumers. He said Malaysia has more than 1,200 species of timber of which 200 species are commercially exploited, while Myanma has more than 2,000 species of which 400 are commercially exploited. He also briefed Maj Gen Chit Swe on the Langkawi declaration on environment that developed and developing countries are both responsible in preserving and conserving nature.

Singapore

Government Supports UN Oversight in Cambodia

BK1701102890 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 1008 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Singapore, Jan 17 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Singapore has welcomed the proposal for the setting up of an interim administration (UIA) to govern Kampuchea and to prepare for free elections. Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng said that the creation of a UN administration was the most promising to take and the details could be negotiated.

"I appeal to all parties to negotiate seriously the creation of the UIA on the basis that it should give the Kampuchean people the right and opportunity to freely exercise their right of self-determination," he said.

At an appropriate time, the Paris conference on Kampuchea could be reconvened to serve as the negotiating forum, he said. He hoped that ASEAN senior officials would meet soon to discuss the matter, adding that Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas was now engaged in consultations to see how best ASEAN could help move the process further forward. He said the UIA would have to be scrupulously fair both in the governing of the country in the interim period, and more importantly, in ensuring that elections were fair.

Cambodia

ASEAN Officials Meeting Proposed for 13 Feb

BK1601011590 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Jan 90 p 2

[Text] Malaysia and Thailand want ASEAN to meet next month prior to an ASEAN-European Economic Community ministerial conference to decide its common position on Cambodia in the light of new peace proposals, according to a Foreign Ministry spokesman.

But the meeting of senior ASEAN officials, tentatively planned for Feb 13, has yet to be approved by the other ASEAN members of Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore and the Philippines, deputy director-general of the Information Department Suraphong Chaiyanam said.

Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila had earlier proposed the meeting to his Indonesian counterpart, Ali Alatas, to evaluate developments in Cambodia over the past six months and to hammer out a common ASEAN stance on the various peace initiatives, including the Evans plan, named after Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Gareth Evans.

The tentative date was made last night at a meeting between Sitthi and his Malaysian counterpart, Abu Hassan Omar. The two agreed the talks should take place in Kuching, capital of Malaysia's Sarawak state on the island of Borneo, the same site as the ASEAN-EC ministerial meeting (AEMM), scheduled for Feb 16-17.

On bilateral issues, Sitthi and Abu Hassan exchanged views on the formation of a joint development authority (JDA) to oversee the development of the overlapping ocean territory in the exclusive economic zone between the two countries, said Suraphong.

He said the two countries will hold a meeting next Monday to discuss the new authority and that a preparatory meeting of Thai-Malaysian senior officials will be held on Feb 23-24 in Penang prior to a third ministerial joint Thai-Malaysian commission meeting on Feb 26-27.

Abu Hassan also told Sitthi of the recent agreement on ferry services in the Tak Bai, the border river between Thailand's Narathiwat and Malaysia's Kelantan states.

ASEAN Forces Proposed 'To Preserve Peace'

BK1601011790 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Jan 90 pp 1, 2

[By Atthawibun Sisuworanan]

[Text] Chiang Mai—Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas has suggested that ASEAN consider sending armed forces and civilian personnel into Cambodia to preserve peace and oversee elections, highly-placed sources said yesterday.

The proposal calls for ASEAN to consider whether the supervisory group should be placed in Cambodia as a United Nations peacekeeping force, and if not, to look at the technical aspects of setting up a joint ASEAN military force.

Alatas reportedly suggested that a force under the ASEAN flag could be sent in case a UN "control mechanism" for Cambodia, a sticking point in recent peace negotiations, fails to gain support.

In either case the introduction of ASEAN forces must be conducted according to international consent, the sources said.

Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co said yesterday that Vietnam would accept such a role by ASEAN in Cambodia. This acceptance is based on the grounds that Cambodia is a regional problem which should be solved jointly by the countries of the region, he said.

Co also insisted that the placement of ASEAN forces in Cambodia should be based on an international agreement.

Both Alatas and Co were in Chiang Mai to attend the Williamsburg conference on security and international relations.

A high-ranking Foreign Ministry Official said yesterday that he would rather categorize the Indonesian move as a "floating suggestion," not as a proposal because no details have been suggested.

The idea of introducing ASEAN armed forces into Cambodia has been discussed for some time among certain member countries. Malaysian Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar reportedly said last year that Malaysia was ready to send military and civilian personnel into Cambodia if needed.

The sources said that ASEAN would likely seriously look into the proposal given the flurry of diplomatic activity following Australia's proposal for an interim UN government in Cambodia and the prospect of peace talks reconvening in Jakarta soon.

Foreign Ministry Permanent Secretary Mr Kasemsamoson Kasemsi, when asked whether he was aware of the Indonesian proposal, confirmed that he had privately discussed the idea with Alatas in Chiang Mai over the weekend.

Kasem quoted Alatas as saying that the ASEAN role in monitoring a Cambodian settlement should in any case be discussed, pointing out that ASEAN given its regional experience would likely provide substantial personnel and support for a UN force.

However, Kasemsamosan declined to go into further details of the discussion.

"We (ASEAN countries) are studying the proposal and will likely discuss its viability soon," he said.

Another Foreign Ministry Official said Alatas' proposal would be discussed next month at a meeting of Senior ASEAN officials. The meeting was organized at Thailand's request to determine ASEAN's stance as a group on the Cambodian conflict since several proposals for a settlement have been floated recently.

Permanent UN Security Council Members Meet

BK1701064490 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0406 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 17—The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council on Monday began work on what is probably the last chance for international diplomacy to prevent the Khmer Rouge regaining power in Cambodia, reports AFP.

Officials from Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States convened for two days of talks in the building where a 21-nation conference on Cambodia was held last August.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said that the meeting should "seek a solution to halt the murderous conflict that is tearing Cambodia apart and prevent a return to power of the Khmer Rouge which ran Cambodia from April 1975 to January 1979.

Taking part in Monday's session were Roger Bolton and Richard Solomon, U.S. assistant secretaries of state, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolay Rogachev, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Xu Dunxin, David Gillmore,

a British deputy under-secretary at the Foreign Office, and Claude Martin, director for Asian affairs at the French Foreign Ministry.

French Foreign Ministry officials said there was no formal agenda for the meeting, which was expected to concentrate on an Australian proposal that the United Nations take over the Government of Cambodia and organise free elections.

The proposal, advanced by Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans last November, seeks to break the deadlock at the Paris conference, but Australian officials have said it was not finalised and contained "several options".

One of these is that 200 U.N. officers will take over the upper echelon of government while a peace-keeping force of several thousands will be deployed in Cambodia.

UN Role Viewed; Meeting Ends

AU1701083690 Paris AFP in English 0013 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Paris, Jan 17 (AFP)—The five permanent members of the Security Council agreed Tuesday that the United Nations should play a greater role in ending the Cambodian conflict and should directly supervise elections there. The agreement came at the end of a two-day meeting here of senior diplomats, who said they hoped to meet again by the end of the month in New York. A third meeting is expected in Paris in mid-February.

Western diplomats described the agreement as "a new point of departure" and said it improved the chances of reconvening the 21- nation Paris conference. That meeting was suspended on August 31 after the four warring Cambodian factions failed to agree on how the country should be governed in the run-up to elections.

A communique issued here Tuesday said the five permanent Security Council members—Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States—"all accept an enhanced U.N. role in the resolution of the Cambodian problem."

Specific points were that: "the complete withdrawal of foreign forces must be verified by the U.N." and "free and fair elections must be conducted under direct U.N. administration". But the agreement stopped short of calling on the United Nations to take over the administration of the country in the interim period before elections. And it warned that the cost of a U.N. operation to help end the 11-year-old conflict could place a "heavy financial burden" on members of the United Nations.

Western diplomats said that China had been "very flexible" in the talks, but that it still preferred to see a four-part interim government including its proteges, the Khmer Rouge guerrillas. The main reason the Paris conference failed was that Cambodian Premier Hun Sen and Vietnam rejected any political role for the Khmer Rouge, who they say committed acts of genocide in their three and half years in power until they were ousted by Vietnamese troops in 1979.

Mr. Hun Sen admitted this month that a recent Khmer Rouge offensive had punched "front-line gaps" in his army, which has stood alone since Vietnam withdrew its forces from Cambodia in September.

On Sunday, the premier proposed that in the run-up to elections, each faction govern territory under its control, but former head of state Norodom Sihanouk, the titular head of the resistance coalition, dismissed this as the suggestion of a "traitor" and tantamount to partition of the country.

Western diplomats commented that Soviet agreement that the U.N. verify the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops reflected "a very important change of heart" on the part of the Soviet Union's ally Vietnam.

The diplomats said they were optimistic that Moscow and Beijing could persuade their allies in Cambodia to endorse the agreement. But they stressed that, in the words of the preamble to the communique, they had agreed to "be guided by the following principles", and said that all fine details remained to be worked out.

They described the clauses on elections as "the anchor" of the agreement. These stipulate that: "the elections must be conducted in a neutral political environment in which no party would be advantaged" and "all Cambodians should enjoy the same rights, freedoms and opportunities to participate in the election process"—a reference to the 300,000 Cambodians living in refugee camps on the Thai border.

But the agreement warned that "the scale of the U.N. operation should be consistent with the successful implementation of a Cambodian settlement and its planning and execution should take account of the heavy financial burden that may be placed on member States." The U.N. administration which prepared Namibian elections last November is estimated to have cost 800 million dollars a year. There are no reliable estimates yet of the costs of an operation in Cambodia.

Hun Sen Returns From Visit to SRV 15 Jan

BK1701115090 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1054 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 17—Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister of the State of Cambodia, returned here Monday [15 January] afternoon after a three-day working visit in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

While there, Hun Sen, who is also Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee, had a consultative meeting with Ali Alatas, Indonesian foreign minister, chairman of the Jakarta

informal meeting (JIM) and co-chairman of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, at the latter's proposal.

He also had a cordial talk with Nguyen Co Thach, Political Bureau member of the CPV [Communist Party of Vietnam] Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister of Vietnam.

Central Committee To Review Australian Plan

BK1701123590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1223 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan 17 (AFP)—The Central Committee of the ruling Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party (KPRP) was meeting here Wednesday to review the Australian peace plan for Cambodia, an official said. "The Central Committee is to examine the country's diplomatic, military and economic situation during the meeting," which began Tuesday, he said.

Prime Minister Hun Sen, who is also Cambodia's Foreign Minister and a member of the KPRP Politburo, was to report on new diplomatic developments during the plenum, which came a few days before the regular National Assembly session, the official said.

The Australian plan, proposed by Foreign Minister Gareth Evans late last year, calls for the installation of a provisional U.N. administration to oversee general elections in Cambodia, which used to be known as Kampuchea. The broad lines of the plan were approved Tuesday in Paris by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council: Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States.

Phnom Penh has conditionally welcomed the scheme while stressing that Cambodia's seat at the United Nations must first be vacated for the world body to play a role in settling the conflict. The seat is currently held by a resistance coalition grouping the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge and two non-communist factions led by former Cambodian monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk and former Premier Son Sann.

In a related development, officials said the upcoming National Assembly session could postpone "indefinitely" elections planned for early this year because of the "resumption of the diplomatic process." Late last year, Phnom Penh said new elections could be held in the first third of 1990 "even without agreement between the Cambodia factions, the Assembly's current mandate having ended." In 1986, the Assembly extended its own mandate by five years "because of the situation in Cambodia which does not allow elections."

On Tuesday, officials here said they remained vigilant despite the renewed diplomatic activity because they had little faith in the Khmer Rouge's willingness to reach a negotiated solution.

"If the military situation is calm right now in most of the country, we expect the opposition to launch a new offensive in the northwest of the country before the end of the month," one official said. The officials said Phnom Penh forces recently intercepted a column of Khmer Rouge guerrillas attempting to approach the famed Angkor Temple complex, killing 40 and capturing 19 others.

Phnom Penh's troops have suffered several setbacks in the northwest since Vietnam announced in September 1989 that it was withdrawing all its troops from Vietnam. Hanoi sent its troops into neighboring Cambodia in December 1979 to oust the Khmer Rouge, responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands during their nearly four-year rule.

Leaders Receive More National Day Greetings

Laos Greets Chea Sim

BK1201145490 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] On the occasion of the State of Cambodia's 11th National Day—7 January—Comrade Chea Sim, chairman of the State of Cambodia's National Assembly, received a greetings message from Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the People's Supreme Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The message stressed: On behalf of the Lao people, I would like to send to you and, through you, to the National Assembly and the fraternal people of Cambodia my most sincere congratulations and best wishes.

The great victories won by the fraternal Cambodian people under the leadership of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] in the defense and reconstruction of the motherland constitute an important contribution to the consolidation of the forces of the three Indochinese countries and the maintenance of peace, stability, and security in Southeast Asia and the world.

As always, the Lao party and people express full support for the correct struggle of the State of Cambodia aimed at achieving national reconciliation and the goodwill initiatives of the Cambodian Government.

May the bonds of friendship, militant solidarity, and cooperation between our two Lao and Cambodian parties and peoples and particularly between the two supreme legislative organizations of our two countries constantly develop and last forever. I wish the fraternal Cambodian people more and greater successes in implementing the resolutions of the fifth KPRP congress and their first 5-year plan.

Hungary Greets Hun Sen

BK1501083090 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Text] On the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the glorious 7 January National Day, Comrade Hun Sen,

foreign minister of the State of Cambodia, has received a greetings message from Dr. Gyula Horn, foreign minister of the Hungarian Republic. The message noted:

I wish you good health and success in carrying out your duty [words indistinct] building independent, peaceful, democratic, and nonaligned Cambodia and realizing national reconciliation.

Fidel Castro Greets Leaders

BK1201144690 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] On the 11th anniversary of the 7 January National Day, Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the party Central Committee and chairman of the Cambodian State Council, and Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers, received a greetings message from Comrade Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party and chairman of both the State Council and Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba.

The message said among other things:

The Cambodian revolution's gradual consolidation and development over a decade and its realistic move along a national reconciliation path to improve the country's image are praiseworthy. The success is achieved with the sacrifices made by the Cambodian children in the restoration and rebuilding of a prosperous, democratic, and nonaligned Cambodia.

We wish to reaffirm our goodwill to develop and strengthen more deeply the existing fraternal relations between our two parties, governments, and peoples and to voice anew our support for the efforts to achieve a peaceful climate in the region and a correct settlement of the Cambodian problem.

Logistics Department Meeting on Emulation Work

BK1301060690 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] A meeting was held recently at the General Logistics Department to sum up the outcome of the emulation movement throughout the department in 1989.

Attending the meeting in the presidium were Comrade Lt Gen Nhim Vanda, member of the party Central Committee, deputy minister of National Defense, and chief of the General Logistics Department; Comrade Col Chan Dara, deputy chief of the General Logistics Department and chief of the Armed Forces' Health Department; Comrade Col Bun Kang, deputy chief of the General Logistics Department and chairman of the General Logistics Department's Emulation Council; Comrade Col Cheng Than, deputy chief of the General Logistics Department; and leading cadres from various offices under the General Logistics Department and many representatives of model individuals and units.

At the beginning of the meeting, Comrade Col (Nhim Kheu), chief of the General Logistics Department's Political Office and deputy chairman of the Emulation Council, read a report summing up the outcome of the emulation movement throughout 1989 and noting the big achievements made by the General Logistics Department in the past year thanks to the fact that cadres and combatants have actively carried out their tasks and successfully fulfilled all the set targets for emulation movement, thus contributing to enhancing the position of strength and victory of our party and state.

During the 2-day meeting, all participants paid keen attention to the reports by units under the General Logistics Department referring to the achievements and expressing pride over the brilliant results of the emulation movement.

All participants also warmly welcomed many outstanding individuals and units which were conferred with citation pictures by the Emulation Council. Citation pictures were conferred on 339 individuals and the General Logistics Department's banners of vanguard in the 1989 emulation movement were given to 2 units.

Comrade Col Bun Kang, deputy chief of the General Logistics Department and chairman of the Emulation Council, made a speech regarding the emulation movement in which he stressed the five points for emulation, namely ability in the readiness to fight, in fighting and carrying out work, in training, in unity and discipline, in living an exemplary life-style, and in practicing thrift.

Speaking at the closing of the meeting, Comrade Lt Gen Nhim Vanda, member of the party Central Committee, deputy minister of National Defense, and chief of the General Logistics Department, sincerely commended all units under the department for the big feats scored through their efforts to fulfill all emulation targets. He also exhorted all participants to continue striving to fulfill their tasks in line with the emulation traditions and to surmount all obstacles in order to score more feats in the coming emulation movement.

The meeting ended successfully in a joyous atmosphere permeated with intimacy and the lofty determination to carry out emulation movement successfully.

Figures for Rice Planting, Harvesting Reported

BK1201075290 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0409 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, 12 Jan (SPK)—According to figures provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, farmers throughout the country planted more than 25,500 hectares of dry-season rice by the end of December 1989.

Of this, Kompong Cham Province came first with more than 9,200 hectares, or nearly half of its plan. It was followed by Prey Veng, Takeo, and Kandal Provinces with 7,000 hectares, 5,100 hectares, and 3,560 hectares, respectively.

Moreover, farmers harvested over 131,100 hectares of rice from a total area of more than 1.5 million hectares cultivated during the recent monsoon rice campaign. They reaped more than 196,650 metric tons of paddy.

Paper Views Sihanouk 5-Point Proposal Stance

BK1601070590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 15 Jan 90

[PRACHEACHON commentary: "Sihanouk Continues the Road of Impasse"; date not given]

[Text] Recently, when countries in the region and the world were busily increasing diplomatic activities in search of an early solution to peace in Cambodia in line with the initiative of Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, such as the visit to China by Comrade Igor Rogachev, deputy foreign minister of the Soviet Union; the visit to Thailand and Vietnam by Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas; the visit to Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, France, and the United States by Australian Deputy Foreign Minister Michael Costello as special envoy of Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans; and the meeting in Paris by representatives of France, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, China, and the United States—which were part of the common efforts by the international community aimed at piercing the prolonged impasse around the Cambodian issue—Sihanouk, who is wearing the mantle of president of the so-called Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, instead published a statement in Beijing running counter to the above-mentioned trend by reiterating the stubborn, unchanged, and obsolete position of the tripartite, genocidal groups by repeatedly and unreasonably demanding that the State of Cambodia make more concessions by accepting the so-called five-point proposal.

This clearly shows to national and international opinion who really creates a new impasse to the efforts in the search for a political solution to the Cambodian problem. It is obvious that the true nature of the so-called five-point proposal is Sihanouk's personal effort on the diplomatic front to find a loophole for the genocidal Pol Potists—his allies—to attain legitimacy in returning to resume their massacre and to perpetrate new crimes in Cambodia.

It is publicly known that, as its fundamental principles, the five-point proposal already rejected by the Cambodian people demands that Vietnam unilaterally withdraw its troops from Cambodia and that the legitimate Government of the State of Cambodia be dissolved. These demands are aimed at radically eliminating once and for all the obstacle preventing the Pol Pot gang's return to power. Over 3 months ago, Sihanouk's first fundamental demand was courageously conceded by the State of Cambodia and the SRV out of their desire to bring an early end to the conflict in Cambodia. The only remaining fundamental demand is unacceptable to the State of Cambodia because it totally violates the right to self-determination of the Cambodian people.

It is no secret that for the past 11 years the State of Cambodia—the legal representative of the Cambodian people—has been and is in control of all the country's territory. In cooperation with people throughout the country, it swept the genocidal regime from power and has prevented it from returning and resuming the massacre of the people, which is different from a handful of power-hungry people who have publicly condemned Pol Pot and boasted about their patriotism but secretly made all-out efforts to protect the Pol Pot gang and to preserve its political and military rights and ultimately demanded that the term genocide be dropped from use. Theirs are actions most dangerous to the nation and country.

Prior to this, Sihanouk used the pro-genocidal Pol Pot gang stance through the so-called five-point proposal to undermine the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, causing it to fail to produce the expected results. Now again, at a time when the countries in the region and the world were trying hard to break through the impasse in the Cambodian problem, Sihanouk instead reiterated this most obsolete position. Therefore, it is sufficient to say that as always all of Sihanouk's actions are to protect the Pol Potists so that they can continue to wage a bloody war against his own country. This is totally contrary to Sihanouk's past claim that he is a 100-percent patriot.

Once again, the Cambodian people vehemently reject the so-called five-point proposal of Sihanouk which is a proposal leading nowhere but toward impasse.

'Fabricated' Curfew Story Rejected as Propaganda

BK1501124890 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1105 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Phnom Penh (SPK January 15)—The Western media, poisoned by the Khmer Rouge radio, had recently (?drummed) up the so-called "Khmer Rouge resistance faction vowed Saturday to press its attack on Battambang, claiming that this Cambodian city had been placed under curfew because of fighting there and they were advancing toward Cambodia's famed Angkor Temple complex". [sentence as received]

The Cambodian news agency "SPK" is authorized to reject this fabricated story and completely dismiss that the Khmer Rouge can take Angkor and their order is nothing but propaganda.

AGENCE FRANCE PRESS said the claims could not be independently verified. Khmer Rouge battle claims are generally exaggerated although experts say they are often based on fact.

This slanderous campaign was intended to show the Cambodian people that Phnom Penh government Armed Forces were unable to guarantee security and to illustrate the strength of the opposition group to take profit in the forthcoming Jakarta informal meeting.

Life in Battambang City is normal and the Angkor Wat temple complex still under our control.

Control over Battambang Viewed

BK1601120890 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1104 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 16—Western media, after monitoring falsehoods from the Khmer Rouge radio, recently spread a report on the so-called "Khmer Rouge faction's determination to press attacks on Battambang City claiming that this city has been placed under curfew due to fierce fighting there and that the resistance forces were advancing to Cambodia's famed Angkor Temple complex."

The Cambodian News Agency SPK is authorized to reject this fabrication and reaffirms that Battambang City as well as the Angkor complex are still under the control of the State of Cambodia and such a false report is nothing but a ploy of propaganda.

The enemy's current slander campaign is intended to weaken the prestige of the State of Cambodia, especially its Armed Forces now responsible for guaranteeing the security and public order in the country after complete Vietnamese Army pullout and doll up [as received] the strength of the opposition group with a view to procuring some political and military advantage in anticipation of the forthcoming Jakarta informal meeting.

Combat, Training Action in Kompong Thom Cited

BK1501073490 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Text] During a recent operation, the Armed Forces of Stoung District [Kompong Thom Province] defeated 29 enemies—including 14 killed and 15 wounded—captured 7 others, and seized a B-40, an AK, 3 mines, and a quantity of war materiel. In addition to fighting, the Armed Forces of Stoung District have focused on training in combat tactics to enhance their capability in obliterating the enemies.

Enemy Battalion Said Routed West of Battambang

BK1701031890 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] On 8 January, a battalion of Vietnamese enemy and puppet troops left Krapoe and Phnum Sampeou in an attempt to oppose us west of Peak Sbaek Village on the battlefield west of Battambang town. However, they were ambushed and routed by our national resistance forces. We killed 14 enemy soldiers on the spot and wounded 20 others; destroyed a B-40, 11 AK's, 2 RPD's; and seized 9 AK's, 2 B-40's, and a quantity of various types of ammunition and war materiel.

Four Villages 'Liberated' in Kompong Cham

BK1701031490 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] On 9 January, our Cambodian national resistance forces attacked and freed village and commune state authorities workers of the Vietnamese enemy and puppets in Areak Thnaot Commune in Stoeng Trang District on Kompong Cham battlefield, and attacked the company position defending Areak Thnaot commune office. We killed 8 Vietnamese enemy soldiers and wounded 12 others; destroyed a commune office; and seized a Goryunov machine gun, another machine gun, 4 RPD's, 12 AK's, 13 SK rifles, and a quantity of war materiel. We liberated four villages: Areak Thnaot, Thmei, Lvea, and Sre Sangke, and freed 20 village officials and 4 Cambodian soldiers.

Resistance Claims Victories Around Battambang

BK1701014090 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 16 Jan 90

["Special report"]

[Text] From 9 to 12 January, our national resistance forces attacked and cut off stretches of road from Bavel to Ampil Pram Daeum, from Ampil Pram Daeum to Ta Khieu, and from Ta Khieu to Toek Sap, and fired artillery shells on Bavel, O Kanhchos, Ampil Pram Daeum, Ta Khieu, and Toe Sap positions on south Sisophon battlefield to constantly keep pressure on the Vietnamese enemy and puppet night and day. Communications between the Vietnamese enemy and puppets at these positions were cut off as was the supply of food, ammunition, water, and all necessary materials. In these 3 or 4 days, the Vietnamese enemy and puppets at these positions were pinned to the ground by our artillery fire; none of them dared to go out and assist anyone.

On 12 January, the Vietnamese enemy and puppets throughout the entire network of positions at Toek Sap, which covers an approximate area of 2 square kilometers, were hit extremely hard. The remaining troops fled in panic for their lives. In their retreat, they were chased by our national resistance forces which killed or wounded another 18 of them. We also destroyed a military vehicle.

In sum, we completely liberated and controlled the network of positions at Toek Sap, which cover an approximate area of 2 square kilometers; killed or wounded many enemy soldiers; and took a number of prisoners. A lot of materiel and weapons at these positions were seized by our national resistance forces. At present, we continue to attack and are actively and constantly keeping pressure on Bavel, O Kanhchos, Ampil Pram Daeum, and Ta Khieu positions.

On 7 January, our Cambodian national resistance forces dug three holes on the railway line between Kouk Trom

and Taphde on south Sisophon battlefield; each hole is 2 meters deep, 3 meters in diameter, and covers a 70-meter long area.

On 11 January, another group of our national resistance forces cut the railway line with four holes between Svay Teap and Reang Kesei; each hole is 2 meters deep, 5 meters in diameter, and covering an area 140-meters long. At the same time, our national resistance forces also attacked and destroyed a Vietnamese enemy's military shelter guarding the railway line in this area.

After attacking and destroying major strategic networks of positions of the Vietnamese enemy and puppets in Battambang town and liberating 44 villages south and east of Battambang town on 5 and 6 January, on the morning of 13 January, our national resistance forces attacked, destroyed, and seized a company position of the Vietnamese enemy at Svay Sar Village along Stoeng Chas river. At the same time, our national resistance forces also attacked the Vietnamese enemy at Pralay Thngo and Boeng Tum positions. We also attacked and swept the network of defense positions of the Vietnamese enemy from Tuol Dangkao to Beng Tum. In the attacks against these two positions, we liberated 10 villages: Samdech, Prasat Sangke, Ponlich Pongro, Svay Sar, Svay Thom, Changho Thmat, Ponlich Krap, Prey Ku, Boeng Tum, and Don Tre. We killed or wounded 24 Vietnamese enemy soldiers and destroyed 13 large and small army shelters, 33 assorted weapons, including an M-30, B-41's, and AK's, a rice stock, ammunition, mines, and a quantity of other war materiel. We seized a 60-mm mortar, 12 AK's, AK ammunition, B-40 rockets, 60-mm mortar shells, and a lot of other materiel.

Following the attack and control of the network of positions at Toek Sap of the 6th Division, our national resistance forces moved ahead to attack and cut off the road between Ampil Pram Daeum and Bavel and continue to fire artillery shells to pressure Ta Khieu, Ampil Pram Daeum, Bavel, Prey Khmaoch, and Kdol positions, night and day. This caused great panic and confusion among the Vietnamese enemy at these positions; many of them successively deserted. At Prey Khmaoch and Kdol positions, we killed or wounded 28 Vietnamese enemy soldiers and destroyed a gasoline depot.

The current situation at Bavel and Ampil Pram Daeum is one of great confusion. Both Vietnamese and puppet troops are losing their morale and successively deserting. Taking advantage of this situation, on 13 January, our national resistance forces attacked the battalion positions at Ampil and Anlung Thmar on south Sisophon battlefield, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers. The remaining troops fled in panic to Bavel. We completely liberated and controlled these two battalion positions.

More Attacks Against Route 56 Reported

BK1601011490 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 15 Jan 90

["Special report": "Route 56 has been completely cut off by our national resistance forces near Peam Prus"]

[Text] On 13 January, our national resistance forces attacked and destroyed the position of the Vietnamese enemy and puppets in Peam Prus on Route 56, killing or capturing 38 enemy soldiers and wounding a number of others; a regiment commander was seriously wounded.

At the same time, our national resistance forces attacked and cut off two bridges and a 2-km stretch of Route 56. This has completely blocked the transport activities of the Vietnamese enemy and puppets since 13 January. As of 15 January, the situation remains the same.

The attack against the only strategic lifeline from Leach to Anlung Reap has caused great panic among enemy troops in Division 94 along the western border, in Anlung Reap, Peam Prus, Sre Peang, Tuol Kruos, Leach, and Pursat.

VONADK Updates Situation on Route 56

BK1701025490 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 16 Jan 90

["Additional report on attacks to cut off Route 56"]

[Text] On 12 January, our national resistance forces attacked and completely destroyed positions of the Vietnamese enemy and puppets at Peam Prus. We killed 30 enemy soldiers on the spot; destroyed 2 bridges; and cut off 2,500 meters of road from Peam Prus to the east. We destroyed a truck fully loaded with artillery shells; the explosion destroyed the vehicle and all the ammunition.

On 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 January—a period of 5 days—our national resistance forces were still in complete control of this stretch of road near Peam Prus. The Vietnamese enemy and puppets have not yet been able to reopen this road despite the fact that they have gathered their troops from Pursat and Leach, regional forces from from Kompong Speu and Kompong Chhnang, and from Division 94 to try to open this road day and night.

Sihanouk Appeals to West Regarding Phnom Penh

BK1701070090 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] On 14 January, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, leader of the Cambodian national resistance forces and president of Democratic Kampuchea, addressed an open letter appealing to Western countries not to recognize the regime supported by Vietnamese weapons in Phnom Penh. The open letter says:

If the Hun Sen-Heng Samrin regime is further maintained in Cambodia, it will become a fait accompli and this regime is not only a Vietnamese-Soviet satellite but also a deadly danger for Cambodia. The open letter says: the Hun Sen regime does not have full independence; it only acts at the Hanoi Government's orders. In ministries and administrative offices of the Hun Sen regime, Vietnamese advisers are the masters. Hanoi is the one who decides on the local and foreign policies of the Hun Sen regime. In Cambodia, there are over a million Vietnamese settlers, who are illegal immigrants from Vietnam, sent to colonize Cambodia and plunder Cambodia's natural resources.

The open letter stresses that: For the Cambodian people, at least for 90 percent of them in and outside the country, they have clearly determined that the legitimization of the Hun Sen regime, Vietnam's puppet, is tantamount to allowing Vietnam to annex Cambodia in the long run, like Vietnam did to Kampuchea Kraom [former Cambodian territory now part of southern Vietnam] in the 19th century, in accordance with the Vietnamese imperialists' dream started by Ho Chi Minh.

Son Sann's Statement on UN Seat Clarified

BK1701015190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Jan 90 p 5

[Text] The resistance group loyal to Son Sann opposes calls to vacate the Cambodian seat because the United Nations is the only place "where Cambodia can exist as an identity and state," a senior Khmer official said yesterday.

Mr Son Soubert, Deputy Delegate for Foreign Affairs of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), was clarifying a key point in Mr Son Sann's "salvation plan" publicised as the UN Security Council began meeting on Cambodia on Monday.

Mr Son Sann endorsed the idea revived by Australia of installing an interim UN administration in Cambodia. But he maintained that "Cambodia" should keep its seat at the UN, albeit without participating "in any debate nor in any vote, until the setting up of a new government."

Mr Son Soubert said by "Cambodia" he meant the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK), but the question of representation was open to negotiation in forthcoming talks in Jakarta.

"Our main concern is that Cambodia continues to be represented at the UN and international forums," he said.

The group does not want to see a repeat of the experience of 1979 when Cambodia was pushed out of the Non-aligned Movement following pressure to vacate the seat then held by Democratic Kampuchea, he added.

The CGDK—an uneasy alliance grouping nationalists loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Mr Son Sann with the Khmer Rouge—has held the Cambodian seat at the UN for the past 11 years.

Phnom Penh has been persistently critical of this but the seating issue has drawn renewed attention as part of Australia's peace proposal.

Nationalist sources said Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas was among the first to receive a copy of the "salvation plan." He hailed it as a good idea in general, agreeing with Mr Son Sann that Cambodia had had enough killing, they said.

The Australian proposal and possibilities of a new informal meeting in Jakarta prior to another Paris conference were key elements of talks between Mr Alatas and KPNLF representatives in Bangkok last week, the sources added.

Tran Quang Co's Peace Plan Called 'Deceptive'

BK1701050990 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Unattributed commentary: "The peace plan proposed by Tran Quang Co is a deception more gross than the one Vietnam used to deceive the United States in 1973"]

[Text] On 14 January, Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co said in Chiang Mai, Thailand that Vietnam's puppets and lackeys in Phnom Penh plan to put forward a new proposal calling for the establishment of two provisional administrations in Cambodia during the elections: one is the administration of Vietnam's puppets in the territory controlled by Vietnam, and the other, that of the resistance forces in the territory under the resistance forces' control. This proposal of the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy clearly shows people that:

1. The Hanoi Vietnamese enemy is still trying to maintain its puppet and lackey regime in Phnom Penh in order to continue hiding troops and aggressor forces in Cambodia and to continue occupying the whole country or at least part of it.

2. This maneuver also reflects the irrevocable setback suffered by the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors on the Cambodian battlefield, because it is not just the Cambodian people and the tripartite resistance forces of the Coalition Government of Cambodia which are fighting the Vietnamese aggressors. Even Cambodian soldiers and Cambodian state authorities set up by Vietnam to serve its policy of aggression in Cambodia cooperate in fighting the Vietnamese aggressors, and do so even more vigorously. The Vietnamese also face serious problems in their own country, and their supply sources in Eastern Europe have disintegrated. Thus, Vietnam cannot improve its position of defeat on the Cambodian battlefield. It also cannot shoulder the burden of its war of aggression in Cambodia. Therefore, Vietnam has to find a temporary solution to achieve a cease-fire so that it can improve its situation and then

launch a definitive offensive to completely achieve its act of aggression in Cambodia.

However, the international community, like the Cambodian people and the national resistance forces led by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, clearly realizes that the peace plan put forward by Tran Quang Co is a deceptive one, more gross than the one Vietnam used to deceive the United States in 1973. Everyone agrees that if Vietnam is sincere in wanting to genuinely solve the Cambodian problem politically, it should have accepted a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem in accordance with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's five-point peace plan. Only solving the Cambodian problem in accordance with this five-point peace plan can the problem be definitively solved with Cambodia regaining peace and security, which will benefit peace, security, and stability in this entire region.

Students in GDR Said To Join Resistance

BK1201074790 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Forty-nine Cambodian students sent by the Vietnamese enemy and puppet Heng Samrin to study in East Germany have left the Vietnamese enemy and the Phnom Penh puppet and have asked to join Cambodia's national resistance forces led by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, leader of the Cambodian national resistance forces and president of Democratic Kampuchea.

This clearly shows that all Cambodians, even those sent to study abroad by the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and puppets Heng Samrin and Hun Sen, absolutely refuse to serve the policy of the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors and kill the Cambodian nation and race. They have united and fought back against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors through various means, such as fleeing the puppet regime, Vietnam's lackey, and joining our Cambodian national resistance forces, and so on. They all clearly realize that only by uniting with Cambodia's national resistance forces and struggling against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors until the latter are chased completely out of our Cambodian land can Cambodia enjoy peace and security, and national independence again.

Democratic Kampuchean Army Anniversary Marked

BK1701110590 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Station editorial: "Marking the 22d Founding Anniversary of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea by Boosting Confidence in the Ultimate Victory Over the Vietnamese Enemy Aggressors"]

[Text] Today, 17 January 1990, is the 22d founding anniversary of our National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK]. The NADK is an army which profoundly loves the nation, the people, and the Cambodian race. For 22 years since its creation, the NADK combatants have courageously, resolutely, and consistently carried out their sacred duty without fear of enduring sufferings or losing their own lives in order to safeguard the nation and the Cambodian race. Over the past 22 years, especially the past 10 years of struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors and race exterminators, our NADK have overcome countless great difficulties and obstacles to defend and prevent the Cambodian nation and race from being swallowed by the Vietnamese enemy aggressors.

In late 1978, the Hanoi authorities sent over 200,000 troops backed by modern armaments and hundreds of Soviet tanks to crush our NADK and to annex our territory with the aim of turning it into a province of Vietnam—as was the case of Kampuchea Kraom [part of Cambodia's former territory which are now provinces in south Vietnam]—in accordance with their small, medium, and great Indochinese federation strategies. At that time, our entire people and NADK were suffering untold serious difficulties unprecedented in our history, and our nation and race were about to be completely exterminated. However, our heroic NADK fighters with devoted patriotism, in close cooperation with our people throughout the country, have courageously and tenaciously fought the Vietnamese enemy aggressors to defend our nation and race successfully. Although faced with a great number of difficulties—misery, famine, shortage of medicine, disabilities—or the loss of lives, our NADK fighters have continued to fight day and night with determination until they could turn the most adverse event in 1979 into a gradually better one.

So far, the NADK, side by side with other patriotic resistance forces and the entire Cambodian people, continues to attack the Vietnamese aggressor forces which are claimed to be the third most powerful army in the world, causing them to suffer severe setbacks on the battlefield of aggression against Cambodia, especially in western Cambodia.

The Vietnamese intervention regular forces such as the 330th, 339th, 309th 5th, and 9th Divisions, and so on, considered as the excellent units, have been crushed and turned into traffic, municipal, and township police forces. The Vietnamese aggressor troops, which used to launch large- and small-scale attacks everywhere with the aim of decimating the NADK and our resistance forces, have to hide themselves now in trenches at various positions along some highways, and in some cities and townships awaiting our offensives.

At present, our NADK, shoulder to shoulder with other patriotic resistance forces, is vigorously fighting and defeating them everywhere, especially in the Battambang provincial city, along Routes 5, 10, 6, 68, and 63 and the railroad route, as well as in the Siem Reap-Angkor area, and so on.

For Cambodian soldiers posted in villages and communes and administrators forcibly drafted by the Vietnamese enemy aggressors, they continue to lay down their arms and rally to our resistance forces in groups of many hundred persons each time. Some have deserted and returned home while others have joined the resistance forces to fight the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and puppet leaders. Therefore, the Vietnamese-installed puppet regime is generally shaken at the moment. A few years ago, the Vietnamese enemy aggressors arrogantly claimed that Cambodia's situation was irreversible. But it is now reversible and the Vietnamese and puppet leaders are put in an extremely embarrassing situation.

The national liberation struggle conducted by our nation and people under the leadership of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk enters a stage where we are moving toward our objective of totally liberating our country. The significant successes are the fruits of the great sacrifices made by our NADK, people, and all the patriotic resistance forces supported by our near and far friends in the world and the whole international community. Without the great sacrifices of the NADK, we would not have scored the successes and our race and nation would have been swallowed by the Vietnamese as was the case of Kampuchea Kraom.

On the 22d founding anniversary of the NADK, our nation and entire people would like to pay highest esteem for and convey best wishes to our heroic combatants. May the comrades-in-arms have the best of health in order to continue your sublime task to fight the Vietnamese aggressors until the Hanoi authorities and their puppets and lackeys are forced to accept a comprehensive political settlement to put an end to their war of aggression against Cambodia in accordance with the five-point peace plan put forth by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk. We would like also to wish our sick or wounded cadres and male and female combatants of the national army, who are receiving treatments, as well as those who are disabled at various hospitals, quick recovery so that they can continue their patriotic duties. We would like also to pay our respects with admiration and sorrow to the souls of the comrades-in-arms—cadres and male and female combatants of the NADK—who have sacrificed their valuable lives in the struggle against the Vietnamese race exterminators. May your souls rest in a peaceful heaven forever!

We, who are still alive, are determined to continue to follow your path to fight the Vietnamese aggressors until our goal of completely liberating our nation and motherland from the Vietnamese grasp is achieved.

Long live the 22d founding anniversary of the NADK!

Indonesia

Informal Cambodian Peace Talks Possible in Feb

Factions Accept Australia Plan

BK1501153790 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1500 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Ali Alatas confirms that the four Cambodian factions have accepted the main part of an Australian proposal for involving the United Nations in the settlement of the Cambodian issue. Those outside the four factions have also regarded the proposal as positive.

Minister Ali Alatas said this before newsmen at Jakarta's Halim Perdanakusuma Airport this evening upon return from a 1-day visit to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. He said that despite their acceptance of the Australian proposal, efforts are still to be made to find the form of a UN-administered interim government. According to Minister Ali Alatas, the four factions still have differing views on the issue. Thus, further negotiations will be held in Jakarta on the 2d or 3d week of February. [Alatas recording indistinct]

Minister Ali Alatas' visit to Vietnam was part of a tour that also took him to Chiang Mai, Thailand, where he attended a 2-day Williamsburg seminar.

Further on Alatas Comments

BK1501150090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1450 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Excerpts] Jakarta, Jan 15 (AFP)—Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said upon arrival here Monday [15 January] that informal peace talks on Cambodia might be held in Jakarta during the second half of February.

"I see the possibility of holding it (the talks) in February, on the third or fourth week of February," Mr. Alatas told reporters here shortly after returning from talks with Vietnamese leaders in Ho Chi Minh City.

"I am slightly more optimistic... There is a reasonable chance we can move forward again," Mr. Alatas said of the planned talks, but added he would still have to wait for a formal agreement from all would-be participants before organizing it. [passage omitted]

Mr. Alatas indicated that the informal talks might concentrate on an Australian proposal that Cambodia's seat in the United Nations, currently held by a resistance coalition, be vacated, while the United Nations would form an interim administration leading to free elections.

"No one has objected to the idea of using the basic (Australian) proposition as a basis for renewed talks," he said, adding that the idea of a U.N. involvement in a settlement appeared to have been accepted by all. Phnom Penh and Vietnam had previously rejected any U.N. role in a settlement. But Mr. Alatas said that

although all parties had agreed on the basic principle of the Australian proposal, the was still "much differing" on the rules and means of implementing it.

Mr. Alatas said that he believed "it would be useful to have Australia around" during the talks, but that the decision whether to involve Canberra would require approval of the participants.

Mr. Alatas said he hoped that the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, now in Paris for two days of talks that opened Monday, "would pronounce themselves clearly on the U.N. involvement in a settlement." He said the five nations—the United States, Soviet Union, China, France and Britain—must play their roles in the solution of the Cambodian conflict. [passage omitted]

Suharto Approves Feb Meeting

BK1601122290 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] At a meeting with Foreign Minister Ali Alatas at the Cendana Road presidential residence in Jakarta today, President Suharto gave his approval for the holding of a Jakarta informal meeting in February.

Speaking to newsmen later, Foreign Minister Alatas said Indonesia will soon make an official approach to the French Government to seek approval for the holding of such a meeting. Alatas added that it is necessary to obtain the French Government's endorsement because both Indonesia and France are co-chairmen of the Paris conference.

Foreign Minister Alatas said he would brief his ASEAN counterparts on preparations for holding a Jakarta informal meeting through their ambassadors in Jakarta. The meeting, scheduled for the 3d or 4th week of February, will be attended by the four warring factions in Cambodia, the six ASEAN countries, Vietnam, Laos, and France.

Army Officer Warns Against PKI Resurgence

BK1301072690 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0702 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] Jakarta, Jan 13 (OANA-ANTARA)—Governor of the National Defence Institute (Lemhanas) Sukarto disclosed that remnants of the G 30 S [30 September Movement]/PKI (banned Indonesian Communist Party) are still active underground with their attempts to undermine the national development process.

"They have gone underground to create a condition in preparation of the time when they can go back into the state's political arena," Sukarto said when he opened the 18th national vigilance course in Jakarta on Saturday [13 January]. The course was attended by 50 participants and would last one month.

Sukarto stressed that the PKI movement was still trying to stage a comeback because it still did not accept the Pancasila (five principles of the state ideology) and the 1945 Constitution. He said the PKI movement here was connected with the development of international communism abroad, which was centered in the USSR and the People's Republic of China, so it must be carefully monitored.

He said the new developments in Eastern Europe did not indicate any changes in the communist ideology and neither the success of glasnost and perestroyka in the coming period. On the contrary, they might increase the threat of communism, he added.

The upheaval in Eastern Europe pointed to the change in the political and economic system of those countries, but they did not give any indication about changes in the communist ideology itself, Sukarto said. Therefore, the big question was, how far the developments in Eastern Europe affected Indonesia's national vigilance and the underground movement of the PKI, he said.

Developments in People's China were also closely followed because during the country's modernisation programme, communism there seemed to have lost ground.

The bloody incident at Tiananmen last June 4, 1989 proved that Maoism was still very strong in China. Moreover with the developments in East Europe, China became more conservative in outlook, Sukarto said.

It should be noted that in principle no changes had occurred in the communist ideology of the USSR and China, he said. In view of this fact, Indonesia should remain vigilant against communism as the national development had many changing aspects which might bring risks and side effects which might at any time disturb the national stability, Sukarto concluded.

Laos

SPA Chairman Meets U.S. Drug Control Group

BK1201093190 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Nouhak Phoumsavan, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], received a courtesy call from a U.S. house delegation led by Charles Rangel, chairman of the Narcotics and Drug Control Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, in Vientiane yesterday afternoon. The U.S. delegation was on a 1-day visit to the LPDR.

During the meeting, which took place in a good and straightforward atmosphere, Nouhak Phoumsavan and Rangel highly appraised the results of the anti-narcotics cooperation between the LPDR and United States both in the past and at present. The SPA chairman expressed his satisfaction with the short visit to Laos of the U.S.

house delegation and believed that the visit would contribute to the strengthening of bilateral relations. The SPA chairman also reaffirmed the LPDR Government's unswerving stand against narcotics. The U.S. side acclaimed the Lao side and pledged its readiness to help expedite the successes of economic construction and development in Laos.

Prior to the meeting with Nouhak Phoumsavan, the U.S. house delegation met with a Lao Foreign Ministry delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat. This meeting emphasized the narcotics problem. The Lao side informed the U.S. side about the work done on the economic foundation such as the promotion of the cultivation of subsidiary crops, the construction of the communications structure and irrigation systems, and other issues. The U.S. side was also informed about the suppression of drug trafficking, the training of narcotics officials, and other related issues. The U.S. side noted with satisfaction the attention given to and the cooperation in narcotics suppression, which can be seen from the signing of the agreement late last year on comprehensive rural development in Son and Houa Meuang Districts in Houa Phan Province.

A few days ago, the two sides signed a memorandum of understanding on narcotics suppression. Both sides agreed to have technical officials of the two countries hold more meetings to pave the way for the expansion of relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Phoun Sipaseut Receives Austrian Ambassador

BK1201080890 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] This morning Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut received a courtesy call from Dr Peter Klein, Australian ambassador to Laos. During the meeting, the host and his guest discussed issues related to relations between Laos and Austria in the past and at present, and emphasized efforts to strengthen relations between their two countries in the interests of the people of both countries.

Editorial Comments on Exiled 'Reactionaries'

BK1701062990 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 17 Jan 90

[PASASON editorial: "Enhance the National Defense Spirit; Step Up Movements To Effect New Changes; and Normalize Social Life in All Respects"—date not given]

[Text] Recently, exiled Lao reactionaries, trained, fostered, and supported by various counterrevolutionary forces abroad, crossed the border into Laos and carried out activities in certain localities in the northern region. These reactionaries have carried out subversive and sabotage activities in various forms. They have intercepted buses, plundered property, and obstructed the daily life and trading activities of the people. In certain areas, occasionally, they have even sounded off their guns and bombs, with the intention of creating a tense situation to cause panic among the people and create a bad political image for the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR].

Along with the above-mentioned activities, these reactionaries have waged spying and psychological warfare by spreading deceitful propaganda and distributing leaflets attacking the new regime, slandering party and state leaders, sowing division between the leadership and the masses, and slandering Vietnam. They have also told a number of ill-intentioned people, who are not satisfied with their living conditions, to be suspicious of the line and policies of the party and state. These various counterrevolutionary forces have continued to use the economic problem as a tool to carry out sabotage activities to create confusion in commodity prices at markets. They have also created confusion in economic management by steering businessmen away from the laws and regulations of the nation and by inciting them to evade taxes and refuse to fulfill their obligations toward the state. These actions have caused difficulties in the budgets and daily lives of cadres, soldiers, and police, and have resulted in creating negative phenomena and an opposition opinion in society.

All of the above actions are aimed at serving this group's schemes to create dissatisfaction among the people over the party's leadership and the government's administrative affairs, as well as to create confusion in the people's thinking in order to make them lose confidence in the party and the new system. By so doing, these counterrevolutionary forces have tried to create political disturbances which will lead to the overthrowing of the new system.

This is the unchanged true nature and design of imperialists and the exiled Lao reactionaries toward the LPDR. Their schemes and acts are not new; this is not the first time that they have been pursued. Over the past 10 years and more, the exiled Lao reactionaries, supported and assisted by imperialists and other hostile forces nearby, have on many occasions attacked the LPDR with arms, through spying and psychological warfare, through economic blockades, and through culture. They have also announced the establishment of the so-called national liberation front and a government in exile with a view toward carrying out sabotage activities, creating disturbances, and overthrowing the new regime. However, all these counterrevolutionary schemes and activities have been defeated by the people. The front government that they established has collapsed by itself because nobody has paid any attention to it.

The LPDR—their target of destruction—has not been overthrown. On the contrary, it has been developed and strengthened in all aspects. The more these counterrevolutionary reactionaries have carried out their activities, the more they have been punished by the people and the more their forces have been weakened. Through the crimes they have committed to sabotage the LPDR over the past 10 years or so, their true, traitorous nature has been further exposed. The sabotage and subversive

schemes and acts that the various counterrevolutionary forces have continuously pursued are the same old designs aimed at destroying the revolutionary gains of our country. However, this cannot be regarded as a normal thing, because the counterrevolutionary forces have taken advantage of the present situation in engaging in activities to destroy our revolution and achievements in building the new system.

Therefore, the strengthening of the implementation of the national defense and public security maintenance work is considered a very important duty that must be fulfilled by our entire party, entire Army, and entire people, with a view toward guaranteeing political tranquility and social order, which are regarded as the main basis for the fruitful acceleration of changes in our country.

The strengthening of the national defense and public security maintenance work is closely related to the ideological and political work. The aims of this work are to increase the political essence and revolutionary qualifications; heighten the spirit of defending the country, independence, sovereignty, and the interests of the people; maintain the revolutionary ideals; and enhance the spirit of upholding the national prestige and the spirit of socialist internationalism. These duties must be applied to the cadres, party members, people, students, schoolchildren, intellectuals, educated persons, and youths. In implementing the ideological work now, it is necessary to emphasize enhancing the combat spirit, the criticism of incorrect views and wrongdoings, the heightening of revolutionary vigilance, and the consolidation of the stand and correct knowledge about the present situation. At the same time, ideological work must be coordinated with the national defense and public security maintenance work and with the tasks of consolidating the party and mass organizations. It must also be vigorously connected with the task of turning to the grass roots.

The direction in which education and training are to be organized in coordination with perfecting the organizational system and policies of various fields must be appropriately implemented toward the cadres.

The stepping up of the implementation of the ideological work at present must also be linked with the implementation of new changes in the ideological work itself in order to quickly settle various shortcomings in our work and guarantee the timely collection of correct and clear information on the situation in all fields for the cadres and people. Simultaneously, it is necessary to change the viewpoints in the economic field and to broaden the democratic practice in the daily life of all organizations and in daily activities of all offices and sectors of social life, with a view toward promoting the national defense spirit and boosting movements to bring about new changes. The most important thing is to encourage everyone to heighten their spirit of responsibility to positively and successfully fulfill their tasks of contributing to the normalization of the tranquil social life in our country.

Philippines

Soviet Official Voices Hope for U.S. Withdrawal

HK1701085790 Hong Kong AFP in English 0848 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Manila, Jan 17 (AFP)—Soviet military forces in the Asia-Pacific region are being reduced, a Soviet Embassy official said here Wednesday amid reports that Moscow was pulling out most of its offensive forces from Vietnam. "The U.S.S.R. has made a number of reductions in its military forces in Europe, Asia and the Pacific, including the activity of the Soviet Pacific fleet," said Alexander Losyukov, the deputy chief of mission of the Soviet Embassy here.

"I hope that the military situation in Asia would be more secure for all after we reduce our military activities in the region. We hope that other powers follow our example," he told reporters, apparently referring to the U.S. military bases in the Philippines. Mr. Losyukov did not identify Soviet military units involved in the reduction.

The INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE reported in its Tuesday edition that Moscow was withdrawing most of its offensive forces from Vietnam in the hope that the United States would also withdraw its forces from the Philippines. The report, quoting an unnamed senior Soviet official and Western officials, said a squadron of MiG-23 jets recently left Cam Ranh Bay and another squadron of Tu-16 bombers have also been withdrawn. There were no longer any submarines or large warships at the base, it added.

Asked to comment on the report, Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said: "We are closely monitoring the movements of both superpowers in Europe and Asia. We have to study this thoroughly so we do not assume the conclusions that are popularly being made about the reported Soviet withdrawal."

The Philippines hosts Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, the two largest U.S. overseas military installations. Manila and Washington are scheduled to begin talks on their post-1991 future in March or April. Mr. Manglapus told reporters Manila was studying the reported Soviet move and "the impact it will have on the negotiations." But he added: "I don't think it will strengthen or weaken (the U.S. bargaining position)."

Document Reveals Plans To Kill U.S. Servicemen

HK1701114390 Quezon City Sports Radio 738 in English 1100 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] The military has captured a document showing the nine-point overall and comprehensive plan of the Communist Party of the Philippines, which includes the

abduction and liquidation of U.S. servicemen. The plan is to be carried out over a 2-year period from July 1989 to July 1991. The document was found in one of the five bags of subversive documents seized by constabulary troopers in Mexico, Pampanga, during the raid at the house of Ruben Francisco, alias BJ. Francisco is the principal suspect in the killing of Mexico Mayor Javier Dizon last January 5.

Military Prepares for Assassination Attempts

HK1201101390 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Report by Jonathan Cristobal]

[Text] The military is rigorously preparing for a possible launching of assassination attempts and terroristic attacks or ambushes against high-ranking Malacanang officials and relatives of President Aquino. This came after discovery of a plan by the Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldiers of the Filipino People [RAM-SFP] alliance to liquidate some presidential relatives whom the group has accused of being whales and piranhas, slowly eating up the country's democracy.

In a statement distributed to various military camps, a copy of which was received by Radio Veritas, RAM-SFP stated firmly that it will continue to launch manhunts against the presidential relatives who they say are opportunists. The statement also said that the officers and members of the alliance will not stop until they have kidnapped some Malacanang officials. Although the statement did not name the primary targets of the coup plotters' plan, it clearly identified Defense Secretary Ramos, and General Renato de Villa, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, as high-ranking government officials who are impeding their success. The RAM-SFP also criticized the meddling by the United States Government in the internal affairs of the country. The group warned that a full-blown civil war could only be prevented if the president and her Cabinet, Senate President Jovito Salonga, House Speaker Ramon Mitra, and what they call the Ramos-De Villa tandem resign from their posts to allow people to freely elect new leaders of the country.

Renegade Soldier Abenina Reveals Coup Plan

Abenina Interviewed by Paper

HK1201073590 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE in English 12 Jan 90 pp 1, 8

[By staff writer Julius Fortuna]

[Text] Rebel soldiers are preparing for another coup d'etat to set up a federal form of government and an economy with socialist features. This was disclosed Wednesday by renegade Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina to newspaper reporters and columnists in an interview in Central Luzon.

Abenina, who carries a P1-million price on his head for his role in the sixth and bloodiest attempt to topple President Aquino last month, also admitted that he brought the factions of rebel leaders Brig. Gen. Jose Ma. Zumel and Lt. Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan together for the putsch.

Abenina said that, once victorious, the rebels will set up a political system guided by the Malolos Constitution of 1897, which, ironically, provided for a centralized form of government under President Emilio Aguinaldo.

But before the federal government is set up, the rebels will first declare a transition "revolutionary government," Abenina said. He said it will be run by a junta composed of three military men—Zumel, Honasan and himself—and four to six civilians who will rule by decree.

Stressing that their differences with the government can no longer be settled by talks, Abenina said the 1987 Constitution will be scrapped and a constitutional convention with elected delegates will be called a year after they grab power. After that, he said, general elections will be held.

Asked what foreign model, if any, the coup plotters are following, Abenina said "we are looking at the good aspects of the Ataturk government." He was referring to Kemal Ataturk (born 1881), who founded modern Turkey after leading his people's fight for independence from the Ottoman Empire and European colonizers.

On the economy, Abenina said "business establishments should be oriented toward socialism and nationalism."

He said business firms should contribute directly to community and even infrastructure development to benefit the people.

A 1958 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy [PMA], Abenina, 55, said the Zumel and Honasan factions are now banded under the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa [Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance], whose acronym is similar to that of Honasan's Reform-the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Movement.

He scoffed at AFP claims that the rebels are a "spent force," saying that they have even established links with the secessionist Moro National Liberation Front, which he claimed was amenable to the idea of federalization.

Abenina, who escaped from detention in Camp Crame on December 1 to join the rebellion, was with Lt. Col. Rodolfo "Rac" Tor during the interview. Tor, a 1972 PMA graduate, was described by Abenina as "one of the brains" of the recent rebellion. The AFP has set a P500,000 reward for Tor's capture.

Other rebel plans and views detailed by Abenina:

Program of government. "We shall set up a democratic government with a high concern for the people. Our

platform will hinge on health, welfare, economic justice, education, employment, leisure...the basic needs of society shall be there." But under the revolutionary government, only "provincial governors down shall be retained."

Rural economy. "Local banks should spur development by lending credit to countryside development."

Multinational firms. "They can come in and their profits will not be controlled or regulated, but part of their earnings should be used for development. The rebel officers are particularly critical about the use of Social Security System funds for lending to multinationals.

Land reform. Emphasis is on distribution of land, especially government-owned land. "Our intention is to widen the agricultural base."

Social justice. "If 59 million Filipinos are suffering because of one million, the rights of that one million will be practically abridged under the revolutionary government." The rights of the privileged groups—politicians, businessmen—will be curtailed, but the people generally will have basic civil liberties like freedom of speech.

Military establishment. "Our intention is to set up a territorial army and to reduce the [present] army by 50 percent." Abenina proposed to cut the Army's size to 80,000 men from the present 200,000 to 80,000, because "anyway, that is the total effective strength of the army."

Communist insurgency. "There will be no more basis for the existence of the New People's Army because we will remove their cause." He favored legalization of the Communist Party "if they give up their arms."

Media. Abenina said he has vetoed proposals to have only one newspaper, one radio, one television station once they get to power. "Media should be able to operate freely and serve as a medium between the government and the people."

Foreign relations. The Philippines should "at least be diplomatically independent from the United States."

U.S. military bases. He said the RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. Military Bases Agreement should not be extended when it expires in 1991. "But since there are [problems with] an immediate withdrawal, we favor a phaseout period, perhaps six months."

Aquino Issues Statement

HK1201095590 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 12 Jan 90

[President Corazon Aquino's "Press Statement on Rebel Leader Brigadier General Edgardo Abenina's Threat To Mount New Coup Against the Administration"; read by Presidential Spokesman Adolfo Azcuna from Malacanang Palace—in English, broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...be charged as the evidence still warrants. The necessary measures to enforce and secure government action against him will be taken.

The statements of renegade Brigadier General Edgardo Abenina on the rebels' plan to set up an altogether different government had they succeeded are not surprising. These self-appointed messiahs would have undemocratically set themselves up as rulers of the people. In the name of freedom, justice, and democracy, they would have violated the very values and institutions they proclaim to uphold. Our people will never agree to this tyranny, however disguised in form.

These self-proclaimed champions of the people give press conferences in hiding, aware that our people have rejected them and will turn them in if they show themselves openly. Our forces will continue to go after them without letup.

De Villa Belittles Threat

HK1201093590 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 12 Jan 90

[By Bing Formento of Mobile Unit 11 at Camp Aguinaldo]

[Text] General Renato de Villa, Armed Forces chief of staff, today belittled a threat by rebel leader Philippine Constabulary Brigadier General Eduardo Abenina to mount a new attack against the government of President Corazon C. Aquino. Abenina made the statement in a newspaper interview, saying that he will be joined by former Army Colonel Gregorio Honasan and former Air Force Brigadier General Jose Maria Zumel.

In the same interview, Abenina claimed the three men have joined forces to form the so-called Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance against the present administration.

Commenting on the report, De Villa said that if Abenina is indeed the head of the alliance, then its next coup attempt is bound to fail. At the same time, De Villa denied Abenina's statement that 82 to 85 percent of the Armed Forces are sympathetic to the rebel cause, adding that the rebel soldiers' treacherous act against the nation last December is condemned by all of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Defense Secretary Ramos Downplays Coup Threat

HK1201091990 Quezon City MALAYA in English 11 Jan 90 pp 1, 2

[By Mila Velasquez, Nestor Arellano, and Joel Paredes]

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos yesterday downplayed new coup threats even as the Southern Command [Southcom] in Zamboanga City placed on standby alert a Navy battalion, an LST (Landing Ship Tank) and a helicopter gunship to reinforce soldiers in Davao City who have been bracing for an attack by rebel soldiers.

Other developments:

—National Security Adviser Rafael Ileto said government troops have failed in catching rebel leader Gregorio Honasan because of the cashiered colonel's "good defensive mechanism."

—National Intelligence Coordinating Agency chief Mariano Adalem said he doubts if the rebels can succeed in toppling the government in another coup.

Ramos said Mrs. Aquino's warning the other day of a new coup plot should be taken in the context of a call she made for the "citizenry to unite in detecting, impeding and even fighting any coup attempt."

Ramos added that the Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldiers of the Filipino People that staged the nine-day military uprising last December can only carry out "isolated hits on selected targets."

The defense chief said targets for assassination probably include himself, AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief Gen. Renato de Villa and other top ranking military officials.

Southcom said intelligence reports showed that lt. Col. Alexander Noble, former chief of staff of the Presidential Security Group, was determined to carry out an earlier plan to occupy Davao City as a signal for a Mindanao-wide military uprising. Southcom, however, did not give details.

Brig. Gen. Guillermo Flores, Southcom chief, said the contingent from the Naval District 6 headquarters under Commodore Ruben de la Cruz will reinforce the men of the 8th Coast Guard District stationed in Davao City.

The Navy contingent, along with the 9th Marine Battalion Landing Team which was airlifted to Davao City last Dec. 15, forms the Southcom's Quick Amphibious Reaction Unit. The unit can de deployed anywhere in Mindanao at short notice.

Senator Aquilino Pimentel told president Aquino yesterday that Misamis Oriental Gov. Vicente Emano met with Noble three weeks ago in Gingoog City and tried to persuade him to surrender.

Pimentel would not elaborate on the Emano-Noble meeting, but apparently the efforts failed as Noble remains at large.

Interviewed after the Cabinet meeting in Malacanang, Ileto said the government would be more comfortable if Honasan and other coup plotters could be taken into custody.

But he added that Honasan may have "a good defensive mechanism to protect him." Ileto said months before the December coup that the military was not exerting sufficient effort in catching Honasan.

Ileto said the rebel soldiers can launch another coup but the chances of their victory "are not too good."

Commander Involved in Overthrow Plan Arrested

HK1701050590 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Authorities arrested rebel commander Jaime Lucas at 2000 today at his hideout in Mandaluyong, Metro Manila. He had a half-million-peso reward on his head and was involved in the attempted overthrow of the Aquino administration in 1986 and on 1 December 1989. Reports say that he tried to escape, but his foot was sprained after jumping out of his hideout.

Investigation Against Senator Enrile Under Way

Witnesses Testify

HK1701050990 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 17 Jan 90 pp 1, 10

[By Louie Baclagon]

[Text] The three waiters who served dinner at the house of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile at the height of the December coup attempt yesterday insisted that Gregorio Honasan was there and not his "look-alike," Air Force Maj. Magtapat Ongchanco Jr.

Ongchanco, an aide of Enrile, failed to appear for his "confrontation" with the witnesses. He said his personal presence at the investigation of the rebellion charge against the opposition senator was not necessary since he had already submitted his testimony to the National Bureau of Investigation [NBI].

During the hearing conducted at the Department of Justice, NBI Director Alfredo Lim asked the witnesses—Romeo Sejero, Manolo Kaisip and Jacinto Dulin—to identify the person they saw at Enrile's house through their photographs. All pointed at a picture of Honasan.

The three waiters and a driver, Vicente Burse, said Honasan and his companions were in fatigues with the white rebel arm patch when they saw him at the Enrile residence in Dasmarinas Village, Makati.

Enrile has said the witnesses mistook Ongchanco for Honasan. In his affidavit, Ongchanco said he had often been mistaken for the rebel leader, because of their close resemblance.

However, the witnesses said they were sure it was Honasan who was at the Enriles' house.

They said Honasan did not have a moustache at the time, while Ongchanco had one. They also said Honasan is a "mestizo," while Ongchanco was dark-skinned.

Lim said they initially doubted the witnesses' description of Honasan until they saw a recent issue of NEWSWEEK where the rebel leader was shown without his moustache.

"This evidence should establish that our witnesses didn't commit any error in identifying Honasan," Lim said.

Meanwhile, a rebel leader said they will retaliate against anyone harassing civilians who supported them in last month's failed coup attempt.

The man, who claimed to speak for the Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldier of the Filipino People (RAM-SFP), renewed threats to launch another bid to topple President Aquino in the "next few weeks."

"We are definitely going to take action against those who are trying to coerce or threaten especially our civilian supporters, said the caller who refused to give his name.

He did not name the rebel supporters who were allegedly being harassed.

Enrile Claims Fabrication

HK1701100190 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile said he is not afraid of the rebellion charge filed against him by the government. He told "Liberty in Action" [a DZRH radio program] that the evidence against him was fabricated. He also denied an accusation by three waiters that renegade Colonel Gringo Honasan went to his home at the height of the December coup d'etat. However, he admitted that there were soldiers in his house at that time, but that they were his own security men. Here is part of Senator Enrile's statement:

[Begin recording] We and the lawyers do not entertain such an accusation, especially one like this. They know. Mrs. Aquino knows, General Lim knows, and the investigators from the National Bureau of Investigation [NBI] know. Their witnesses know. The whole country knows that this is a fabricated case. So, why should I be afraid? Perhaps I would get a bit scared if I were charged with rape because my wife might get mad at me. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Enrile also said that the Department of Justice and the NBI were pressured by Malacanang to file the rebellion charge against him. Senator Enrile again:

[Begin recording] The NBI and General Lim, would not do this if there were not an order. I know Alfredo Lim because when he was locked out by the Marcos regime, I helped him. That is why he is what he is now. Also, when he was implicated in a case involving a niece of General Alex Felix, I helped him out again. He was supposed to be court-martialed under the Marcos regime, so he owes me something. I don't owe him anything. I hope you do not think that I am collecting dues, because I do not expect to be repaid. [end recording]

Enrile Criticizes Handling of Cagayan Governor

HK1701101590 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Slantlines denote passages in English]

[Text] Senator Juan Ponce Enrile told "Liberty in Action" [a DZRH program] this morning that if government officials like Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos were really courageous, they would go to Cagayan and speak with the governor. According to him, the turn of events shows the weakness of the present administration.

[Begin recording] [Enrile] Regarding Rodolfo Aguinaldo's case, the people notice the president's lack of leadership. She issued an order and she said in the MANILA STANDARD: /We will arrest Aguinaldo./ Why /we will arrest?/ Why in the future tense? Why does she not say: /I hereby order General Ramos and General de Villa to immediately arrest Aguinaldo./ Why does she not make this statement if she really wants to show that she is the one in command? Why is she afraid? She is afraid /because they do not have control. They are not sure of their control of the institutions/ they will use to carry out the directives.

[Reporter] Mr Senator, if you were the DND [Department of National Defense] secretary and the DLG [Department of Local Governments] secretary issued this order, what would you do?

[Enrile] General Ramos knows me; he knows my style. If I were at the DND, I would already be in Cagayan right now.

[Reporter] You would personally go there?

[Enrile] I would personally go there and personally issue the order to the soldiers. Whether or not Rodolfo Aguinaldo is my friend, he still has to uphold the law. I do not understand why they are not doing this. Are they afraid? Or are they hiding something? Or are they not aware of their obligations? [end recording]

Cagayan Governor Reaffirms Intention To Stay

HK1701052190 Manila PHILIPPINE NEWSDAY in English 17 Jan 90 pp 1, 2

[By reporters Ros Manlangit, Merlinda Manalo, and Dario Agnote]

[Text] Cagayan Governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo last night said he had no intention of vacating his post or of coming to Manila, despite a Supreme Court resolution clearing the way for his suspension from office and a Malacanang statement warning him of the consequences of ignoring summons to come to Manila.

Military authorities assured the public there was no tension or force buildup in Cagayan, contrary to earlier speculative reports. They quoted Aguinaldo as saying "I will fight my battle in the legal way." Sources close to Aguinaldo, however, were not as optimistic.

In a telephone interview with NEWSDAY, Aguinaldo, whom President Aquino, through Secretary of Local Governments Luis Santos, wants suspended for allegedly supporting the December 1st failed coup, said "I do not feel secure in Manila."

He said he was served a subpoena by the National Bureau of Investigation in Tuguegarao yesterday morning, but that he did not think it was necessary for him to personally appear at the January 26th hearing.

"I have consulted my lawyers, and they have advised me that I could execute a power of attorney and ask my lawyer to represent me in the hearing in Manila," he said.

The Supreme Court, meeting en banc on a petition by Santos and Local Governments regional director Cesar Melegrito against Regional Trial Court Judge Plaridel Villacete in Tuguegarao, resolved, without giving due course to the petition, 1) to require the respondents to comment thereon, within 10 days from notice; and 2) to issue a Temporary Restraining Order, effective immediately and continuing until further orders from the High Court, "ordering the respondent Judge and all persons who may be acting for or on behalf or under his control and direction, to cease and desist from enforcing his Order dated January 10, 1990" which restrained Santos from suspending Aguinaldo in connection with rebellion charges filed against him by Santos.

At the same time Malacanang said should Aguinaldo ignore an official summons to appear at the preliminary investigation of charges against him on January 26th, the government would be constrained to proceed even in his absence and get a warrant of arrest against him based on the evidence.

In addition to Santo's charge, national Bureau of Investigation [NBI] Director Alfredo Lim yesterday filed his own rebellion charges against Aguinaldo and several others in connection with their alleged support of the December 1st failed coup that nearly toppled the Aquino administration.

The Supreme Court resolution came after President Aquino and then Santos asked Solicitor General Francisco Chavez to ask the Supreme Court to seek the "dissolution" of Judge Villacete's restraining order.

This was apparently based on the finding that Aguinaldo had received a copy of the complaint against him on January 4th and had until January 11th to file an answer, but that Santos inducted Cagayan Vice Governor Melvyn Vargas as acting governor on January 9th.

In his petition to the High Court, Santos said Aguinaldo received a copy of the complaint as early as December 19, 1989, and that this was the basis of the 60-day suspension order.

He also said that he had received a letter from Aguinaldo on January 5th where the latter said he "favored the cause of the rebels" but denied allegations that he deployed his forces beyond Cagayan's provincial boundaries.

Aguinaldo said that the December 19th communication was a copy of a telegram, to which he answered on January 5th, but the verified complaint against him was received only on January 4th.

In a statement read for Mrs. Aquino by presidential spokesman Adolf Azcuna, the President said Aguinaldo should come to Manila and use the hearing as the venue to air his side in the case. "Should he not avail of this opportunity to be heard, due process will have been observed and we can then proceed against him, even in his absence, to get a warrant of arrest based on our evidence," the statement said.

The January 26th hearing will determine whether there is prima facie evidence with which to charge Aguinaldo with the crime which carries a maximum prison term of 12 years.

Azcuna said the hearing cannot be held in Cagayan, as suggested by some sources. He, however, added that Aguinaldo would receive government protection during the hearing.

In the NBI charges, Lim said that based on witnesses' accounts, Aguinaldo was seen wearing military camouflage uniform, combat boots and sidearms at about 2:30 p.m. on December 1st, the first day of the failed coup.

He said Aguinaldo commandered three military trucks, two military jeeps, three tanks, and three armored personnel carriers with combat ready troops wearing light cream armbands. The troops were headed for Manila, Lim said.

The NBI charge sheet carried supporting affidavits from Cagayan mayors Veronico Agatep, Manuel Mamba and Orlino Agatep. Additional witnesses also included Mario Guim, Sonia Banez, and Maria Dadaca, all of radio station DZNC based in Isabela.

Meanwhile AFP Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Brig. Gen. Lisandro Abadia, told reporters there were no armed vehicles or military personnel deployed around the perimeter of the capitol in Tuguegarao where Aguinaldo continued to hold office, contrary to reports.

"The situation is normal," said Abadia who had just returned from a visit there with Deputy Chief of Staff for Civil Military Operations Col. Emiliano Templo.

"There is no unusual troop movement and civilian protest rally taking place and the situation is constantly being monitored," he said.

Both Abadia and Temple said they conducted a dialogue with the officers and men in the region and said there was no basis to earlier reports that 90 percent of the military men would support Aguinaldo in an open clash with the government.

Temple also denied reports that Aguinaldo had a private armed force of at least 200 men. He said these were CAFGUs (Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Units).

Commander Ordered To Conduct 'Oath-Taking'

HK1201094190 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Report by Loy Caliwan; passages within slantlines in English]

[Text] Brigadier General Abadia, commander of the 205th Helicopter Wing of the Philippine Air Force, today said he was instructed by General Renato de Villa, Armed Forces chief of staff, to conduct an oath-taking of over 1,000 Philippine Air Force officials and enlisted men assigned to the 205th Helicopter Wing so they can repledge their allegiance to the Constitution.

According to General Abadia, the officials and soldiers should again manifest their loyalty to the Constitution and be ready to defend the country against the rebels and criminal elements aiming to overthrow the present government. Here is part of General Abadia's statement:

[Begin recording] [Abadia] You know, General De Villa had issued a directive /because of the coup, that all the officers and men of the Armed Forces, down to the platoon level, should make a public renewal of our oath of office/ so that the entire nation may know that we are not all rebels. Only a handful were rebels—a mere 2 percent, which means that /98 percent of us are loyal to the Constitution./

[Caliwan] So, in the recent coup attempt, General, only your headquarters was bombed by the rebel soldiers, and they burned the bachelors' quarters. Is this true?

[Abadia] Yes. You know, we own the helicopters they used. They wanted to use our helicopters, but we refused to join them, and no one surrendered. Then, they burned our quarters and bombed our headquarters. My office was torn to pieces.

[Caliwan] How many helicopters were destroyed?

[Abadia] They destroyed 16 helicopters.

[Caliwan] So, this is a second renewal of oath for the officials and men. How many will come?

[Abadia] All of us, of course.

[Caliwan] How about those detailed in other regions?

[Abadia] All those available in this area will join us, except those detailed in other regions. Also, as I said this morning, /the radical left and the radical right are out of step with history. You know, Gringo Honasan wants to establish a junta. The CPP-NPA [Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army] wants to reestablish Marxist government./ Look, people in Europe wants democracy, but we, here, are doing all these things. /They are out of step with history./

[Caliwan] That was General Abadia. [end recording]

Junior Officers Pledge Support for Aquino

HK1601084590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0838 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Manila, Jan 16 (AFP)—President Corazon Aquino talked here Tuesday with Army lieutenants and captains who pledged to support the government in case of another military coup attempt, a senior official said. The discussions, held at the presidential palace six weeks after the sixth and bloodiest attempt to topple Mrs Aquino was spearheaded by elite Army troops, kicked off a series of scheduled talks with other Armed Forces junior officers.

"They assured the president that should there be any disturbance again, the president, (and) the government can count on their support," said former Army chief Mariano Adalem, the chief presidential military and intelligence adviser. Sixteen first and second lieutenants and 25 captains took part in the discussion, which centered on matters like pay, allowances and promotions, as well as government support for military field operations, Mr Adalem said.

"They were properly enlightened as to what the government is doing along this line, especially in their provisions," he told journalists after attending the dialogue at the chandeliered cabinet meeting room.

An increase in soldiers' daily allowances was passed earlier this month in fulfillment of a pledge made by Mrs Aquino after the coup attempt, which left at least 119 dead and more than 500 wounded in the capital. Mr Adalem said the junior officers recounted for Mrs Aquino, who is commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, what they did during the November 30 to December 9 coup attempt.

Young Officers Discontented With Lack of Reforms

HK1501133390 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Excerpt] There is widespread discontent among younger military officers over the government's failure to implement genuine reforms, and this sentiment is being taken advantage of by rebel soldiers belonging to the Reform the Armed Forces Movement [RAM] and the Soldiers of the Filipino People [SFP]. This was confirmed by Brigadier General Rodolfo Biazon, National Capital Region Defense Command chief, in an interview with the defense press corps.

Biazon said that it was natural that recently graduated lieutenants from the Philippine Military Academy aspire for social changes after they become aware of the issues and problems confronting the country. Biazon also said that while the entire Armed Forces hierarchy is one in its desire for national economic development, the so-called idealism of RAM soldiers led by Lieutenant Colonel Gregorio Honasan is a different story. According to him, RAM is composed of soldiers who want extraordinary powers which ordinary soldiers did not enjoy under the regime of the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

He also stressed that the RAM personnel may be considered as military interventionist,s as opposed to the constitutional soldiers of the AFP. Biazon also said that many of the young officers do not agree with the recently launched coup attempt, and are prepared to fight for the preservation of the country's duly constituted authorities. [passage omitted]

Military Academy Alumni Condemn Coup Attempt

HK1201042990 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 12 Jan 90 pp 1, 17

[By Roy Sinfuego]

[Text] The Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association (PMAAAI) has condemned all those in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, including its members, who participated in the Dec. 1 coup attempt and repudiated any future attempt to overthrow the duly constituted government by force.

In a resolution signed by Brig. Gen. Lisandro Abadia and retired Col. Juanito Ferrer, PMAAAI president and chairman, respectively, the association called on the 5,000 PMA alumni to unite and throw their support to the present government and protect democracy.

The PMAAAI board resolution called on its members "to take a united and unequivocal stand against all scheming forces, organizations, and individuals seeking to force their will through violent means to the people and its government."

The resolution, however, also urged the government to "initiate prompt and genuine efforts to address the issues that became vulnerablities exploited by the coup leaders."

Although the PMAAAI sympathized with the legitimate grievances and issues of the coup participants, it disagreed "with the interventionist and consequently violent method adopted."

The resolution said that the latest coup attempt resulted in the unnecessary death of over 100 people and the destruction of billions worth of properties, aside from the loss of economic opportunities and potential foreign investment.

It said that the attack on Malacanang and Camp Aguinaldo showed the coup participants' "wanton disregard for human lives, civilians or comrades in-arms."

Senator Salonga Reportedly To Run for President

HK1201043190 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 12 Jan 90 p 12

[By Cris V. Paraso]

[Text] A Liberal Party [LP] senator bared the other day a "definite" plan by Senate President Jovito R. Salonga to run in the 1992 presidential elections.

Sen. Ernesto F. Herrera, an LP stalwart, said Sen. Salonga will run for the top post even if President Aquino decides to seek another term."

Said Sen. Herrera: "It will be his (Salonga) last hurrah," adding that the probable running mates of Sen. Salonga will include Sen. Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr. of the Partido Demokratikong Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan [Pilipino Democratic Party-Strength] and co-LP senators Joseph E. Estrada and Orlando S. Mercado.

The Cebu solon, however, noted that Sen. Salonga's "drawback" is his age. By 1992, the Senate President will be 72 years old.

Discussions of possible contenders to the presidency and vice-presidency came amid calls from some quarters for Mrs. Aquino to call a snap election even before 1992.

A Senate source said ruling coalition senators, in a recent meeting at Sen. Salonga's residence, considered the idea of a snap election that will provide the Aquino administration "fresh mandate" from the people.

"If Cory opts to seek another term, it might be an all-LP lineup (that would run against her)," said Sen. Herrera.

The Constitution provides that the President will only serve a single six-year term. However, Mrs. Aquino took her oath under the Freedom Constitution and sought the presidency under the 1981 Constitution of the Marcos regime.

Political observers said these alternatives will give her leeway to run anew if she so decides.

Offices Deputized for Feb Mindanao Elections

HK1201042190 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 12 Jan 90 p 8

[Text] The Commission on Elections [COMELEC] has deputized four departments and two agencies of the government for the first election in the Muslim Mindanao autonomous region on Feb. 17.

Deputized by the poll body were the Departments of Transportation and Communications, Education, Culture and Sports, Finance National Defense, the Bureau of Prisons and the National Bureau of Investigation.

Comelec Resolution No. 2232 promulgated on Jan. 10 said these departments and agencies must make available their staff and their facilities to the poll body for purposes of the election.

The Comelec, as a constitutional body, has the authority to enlist the assistance of other government offices and agencies in carrying out its function of administering and conducting elections in the country.

The Armed Forces must provide security to voters, candidates and other persons legitimately involved in the election, the resolution said.

Its four major branches—the Army, Navy, Philippine Constabulary and the Air Force—must strictly enforce peace and order regulations in the areas where the election will be held, the resolution added.

The first election in the newly created Muslim Mindanao autonomous region will be held in Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

These were the four provinces which voted for an autonomous regional government in the south during the plebiscite held last Nov. 19.

Investments in Export Processing Increase

HK1201092190 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 11 Jan 90 p 16

[By Corrie S. Narisma]

[Text] Investments in the country's export processing zones last year last year hit a record P2.02 billion or 530% more than its year-ago level of P321.07 million, the Export Processing Zone Authority (Epza) reported yesterday.

The January to December 1989 investment data represent the project costs of 50 companies located in the zones during the period.

Only 13 firms registered in the zones in 1988.

Of the three export processing zones in the country, the Cavite Export Processing Zone (Cepz) absorbed the bulk of investments amounting to P1.3 billion from 28 new companies.

In 1988, investments pumped into Cepz amounted to only P85.3 million representing only four companies.

The Mactan Export Processing Zone in Cebu (Mepz) posted last year a 1,298% growth in investments to almost P660 million from only P47.2 million in 1988.

A total of 18 companies were established in Mepz last year as compared with only four in 1988.

The Japanese led the list of top investors in the zones, contributing P1.13 billion or 56% of total investments.

Of the Japanese projects set up in the zones last year, 13 are wholly-owned while the rest are joint ventures with Filipino investors.

Most of the Japanese projects were in electronics manufacturing.

One Mepz firm was the PEC of Japan which put up a local subsidiary called the NEC Technologies Philippines Inc. to produce coils and transformers, panel boards and data communications equipment.

Hong Kong nationals followed with total investments of P286.6 million which were infused in two wholly-owned firms and one joint venture project.

The South Koreans contributed P245 million in five projects, three of which are wholly-owned and two are joint venture projects.

Filipino investors infused a total of P198.3 million investments in nine manufacturing projects in the zones while the Americans pumped in P109.078 million in one wholly-owned project and three joint ventures.

Statistics show that the zones were able to generate some 30,000 additional employment last year.

This is expected to rise further this year as more foreign and local investors continue to set up shop in the zones.

Epza administrator Ramon J Farolan is confident that the growth of investments in the zones in 1990 will outpace that of last year despite the effects of the coup attempt.

He said a number of companies are planning to base their manufacturing operations in the export zones.

Thailand

Chatchai Receives SRV Deputy Foreign Minister

BK1601073290 Hanoi VNA in English 0700 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 16—Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan has received Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co during the 18th Williamsburg conference held in the northern Thai city of Chiang Mai. Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan and the Vietnamese diplomat exchanged views on a solution to the Cambodia issue and on the Thai-Vietnamese relations. Speaking at the conference held by the Asia Society of the United States and the Institute of Security and International Studies of Chulalongkon University, Deputy Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co dwelt on the prospect of Indochina.

Column Stresses Chatchai's Need for Strategy

BK1501041090 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Jan 90 p 9

[From the "Thai Talk" column by Suthichai Yun: "Who Is Tending the Store"]

[Text] Somebody should tell Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan that while it's fun to "play politics," the time for partying is over. It's time to get back to work—if the premier wasn't interested in the serious side of his job, somebody else will have to tend to the nation's affairs—sooner or later, perhaps sooner than later.

There is a lurking suspicion that the playful premier may have had too much fun muddling from one crisis to the next. Party politics has been an obsession for him for the past few weeks.

Too much time has been wasted on how to keep factions within his own Chat Thai party under control.

Excessive attention has been directed to fuelling speculation on whether the retiring Army chief, Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, will become defence or interior minister.

The feud between the two brothers-in-law—Chatchai and Praman Adireksan—is a joke. It has no right to be on the nation's agenda. If the Soi Ratchakhru clan can't resolve its own family affairs, it's none of our business. They should step aside and settle their old scores on their own. We as a nation evidently have much, much more important things to do.

National politics has been reduced to trivial quarrels. Why, oh why, is it that this government is much more obsessed with whether Police General Praman will quit or not while the questions of oil prices, inflation and income disparity in the rural areas are being put on the back burner?

Does it really matter whether General Chatchai and his brother-in-law are on good terms when some of the urgent economic issues are being treated like hot potatoes—hurled back and forth among ministries concerned.

And is it really a life-and-death decision, after all, whether General Chawalit will leave the armed forces to become a Cabinet member? To all intents and purposes, this isn't going to turn the country upside down or vice versa. But the premier and the Army chief have sent out enough confusing signals to start the whole nation speculating on a non-issue.

Of course, any political observer could guess that the two have bargained over the terms and timing of such a move. And the aides from both sides have flown their trial balloons when the talks bogged down and they couldn't reach an agreement. But why should that create a stir at the national level?

Haven't we all learned from recent experience that no prime minister in this country could really "name" his political heir apparent? When General Chatchai tried to do that—he denied having said so after nearly two weeks of wild speculation—he was just trying to consolidate his position in the Chat Thai Party.

The Army chief, of course, has his own reasons to keep the public guessing on his real intention.

But in the final analysis, the issue doesn't deserve the hoopla it has enjoyed so far. Personalities do still count in this country. But political and military celebrities in Thailand would do well to take a look back at history. Political clout and power base are mere perishable commodities which may fade away as quickly as they arrived. The rest is no more than self-delusion.

It now seems clear that General Chatchai, whose political sleight of hand appears to be drying up, is looking for some new juggling tricks but they are hard to come by. He has probably used them all up—and has run into a dead end. In the same way, General Chawalit may also have found himself in a "cul-de-sac." He has made it public too often that he would leave the armed forces before reaching retirement age in 1992, hoping that he could jump right into political limelight. But the stage is crowded and nobody is ready to give up his leading role to the newcomer. Time is running out.

Suddenly, Chatchai and Chawalit have stumbled on the realization that to their dismay, and by nobody's vicious design, neither of them is in a position to call the shots.

Who then is in charge? The answer, pure and simple, is nobody. Hence the sense of exasperation we now detect on the political scene.

That is why the prime minister isn't running the country's business. He is playing politics of survival—from day to day. To paraphrase what he told a group of editors the day he decided to transfer Interior Minister Praman to the industry portfolio, General Chatchai's only concrete strategy now is "to fight the next battle as it emerges."

And he doesn't know where the next threat to his survival will be coming from.

To be fair, though, it would be wrong to assume that General Chatchai is trying to cling on to power at any cost. All indications suggest that he is ready to call it a day in politics and concentrate on improving his golf game. But his aides and those who stand to lose if he steps down won't let him find a graceful exit yet.

And these are the people who have misguided the prime minister into spending most of his time now engaging in trivialities rather than national issues. As a result, General Chatchai has found himself in a corner. He may not have become a lame duck as such. But his effectiveness has clearly eroded to a dangerous degree.

It is apparent he won't be in a position to pick his political heir. To the general public, that's not even an issue.

The question of great urgency today is: Who is tending the store?

Everybody in power, it seems, is only trying to take possession of the shop but nobody is keeping this noisy store in good shape.

Those who really care about General Chatchai's political records should have the guts to tell him the full story—not only the dramatic, bloodletting episodes for which General Chatchai has a soft spot.

Column Examines Continuation of Premier Crisis

BK1401030090 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Jan 90 p 4

[From the "Inprint" Column]

[Text] It came as a shock when a Royal command was read on Radio Thailand on January 9, announcing a swap in the positions of Interior Minister Praman Adireksan, who was dubbed "Minister With Polluted Environment" by Government House reporters, and Industry Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha, who was voted "Mr Low Profile But High Profit" by economic reporters.

Prior to the announcement, there was widesprad speculation about Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's attempts to woo military top brass—notably military chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut or Army chief-of-Staff Gen Charuay Wongsayan—to take the Interior post.

The speculation began on New Year's Day after Gen Chatchai said in an interview with a Thai-language daily that he would like Gen Chawalit to be the next prime minister, but the general should first join the Cabinet as defence minister. If Gen Chawalit preferred the Interior portfolio, the Prime Minister said, Interior Minister Praman might give his post to Gen Chawalit and take the Defence portfolio himself.

Three days after the interview, Prime Minister's Office Minister Michai Ruchuphan tendered his resignation, citing personal reasons. The timing of Mr Michai's resignation added more weight to the speculation.

The Premier's plan fell through, however, when Gen Chawalit informed him that he and his men were not ready to join the coalition Government, partly due to strong opposition from supporters of Pol Gen [Police General] Praman, said KHAO PHISET Weekly.

With the stalemate, Prime Minister Chatchai had no choice but to swap the posts of Mr Banhan and Pol Gen Praman, who is his brother-in-law. The swift decision was believed to have been made after consultation with the Chat Thai Party's executive board and the Prime Minister's personal advisers.

MATICHON weekly saw Gen Chatchai's move as a short-term measure aimed at easing pressure from "external forces." Most important of all, the Prime Minister's decision also helped stop the turbulence within the Chat Thai Party itself.

The weekly quoted sources in the Chat Thai Party as saying that Gen Chatchai invited the Army chief and his two colleagues (Gen Charuay and Gen Phat Akkhanit-but) to join the Government in order to boost its stability. He also wanted to use the external power to force Pol Gen Praman to quit the Interior Ministry because he had become a liability for the Government, the sources said.

Ever since he became Interior Minister, Pol Gen Praman had made several controversial proposals which attracted unfavourable publicity and this, in turn, adversely affected the Government's image, MATICHON said. A man of strong and independent character, he was unyielding on many issues, including the appointment of the police chief, the permanent secretary of Interior, the commissioner of the Police's Central Investigation Bureau, the commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and the provincial governors.

His persistence meant that he always prevailed, except for the proposed transfer of Pol Lt-Gen Bunchu Wangkanon from the Central Investigation Bureau and the appointment of Mr Chalong Kanlayanamit as the permanent secretary of Interior, which were opposed by the Prime Minister and external powers.

Pol Gen Praman's fate took a new turn when he successfully sought the Cabinet's approval for the appointment of Mr Thamrong Phatthanarat as the city Clerk, reversing an earlier Cabinet ruling that the City Clerk should be appointed by the new Bangkok governor. Pol Gen Praman's action caused an uproar in political circles which led to the resignation of Deputy Prime Minister Phichai Rattakun while Mr Thamrong himself later declined to acept the post.

Maj-Gen Chamlong Simuang's landslide victory in the Bangkok governor election was apparently the last straw that prompted Gen Chatchai to transfer his brother-in-law.

What would Gen Chatchai and the Government gain from this?

MATICHON said the job swap might have been aimed at convincing the public that the Government is truly democratic and always listens to the voice of the people. The move would also portray Gen Chatchai as a "decisive" administrator who puts public interests before family relations.

However, the move did not solve the threat posed by Gen Praman's' faction in the Chat Thai Party. A more pressing problem also confronts Gen Chatchai—what to do with the powerful military chief who has already indicated his intention to resign from the armed forces to enter the political arena.

French Prime Minister To Visit 19-21 Jan

BK1701020590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Jan 90 p 6

[Text] French Prime Minister Michel Rocard will pay an official visit to Thailand as guest of Premier Chatchai Chunhawan from Friday to Sunday.

Mr Rocard's entourage will include Minister of Equipment, Housing, Transport and Sea, Michel Delebarre; Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Henri Nallet, and Edwige Avice, Minister attached to the Foreign Ministry.

Mr Rocard will arrive in Bangkok on Friday night, and will meet Gen Chatchai for half an hour on Saturday morning at Government House prior to a session on bilateral relations.

The French Prime Minister will be granted an audience with His Majesty the King at Chitlada Palace on Saturday afternoon.

While here, Mr Rocard will also meet the French community and the Franco-Thai Chamber of Commerce.

Editorial Links Cambodia Settlement to China

BK1501042090 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Jan 90 p 9

[Editorial: "New Hopes for Cambodia"]

[Text] Premier Hun Sen of the Phnom Penh government once compared his strategy of sacrificing border towns to the advancing resistance forces to luring tigers out of their dens. But instead of trapping the tigers as he planned, he now finds the tigers grow stronger and are threatening his prize possessions: the key northwestern province of Sisophon and the second largest Cambodian city of Battambang.

The situation was so serious for Phnom Penh that Hun Sen had to call for additional draftees to boost defence. And next month he will reshuffle his Cabinet to reinvigorate his threatened government, which has been on the defensive since Hanoi withdrew its troops from Cambodia last September.

In spite of the escalation in fighting, the three factions in the resistance together with the Hun Sen regime still talk about, or at least give lip service to, the need to resume peace talks to end the Cambodian conflict through a political settlement. They now want to attend an informal meeting on Cambodia in Jakarta next month, although their positions are still far apart.

Hun Sen wants a combination of the Namibian model and the Australian proposal, which in effect will allow him to retain the armed forces and government administrative structure. It would establish a UN administration to govern Cambodia (through the existing administrative structure), hold general elections, supervise a cease-fire and monitor a cessation of all external military aid. At the same time the Cambodian seat in the UN General Assembly would be left vacant pending the outcome of general elections.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, leader of the non-communist resistance, doubts that the UN would be able to do much while Hun Sen's administrative structure remains in place. He, therefore, stands firm on his proposal to dissolve both the Phnom Penh government and the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, which groups his non-communist resistance with the infamous Khmer Rouge. Instead of a UN interim administration, which Prince Sihanouk contends will violate Cambodia's sovereignty when introduced without consent of the people, he prefers a four-party government of national reconciliation with him as its leader.

The Khmer Rouge, of course, like Prince Sihanouk's proposal because it would give them a political role in post-settlement Cambodia, which could mean even a remote chance to return to power.

The Khmer Rouge have let Prince Sihanouk do the talking while they are making steady advances on the battleground. They need a decisive victory to increase their bargaining power so as to soften Hun Sen's outright rejections of any proposal that would give them a role in an interim Cambodian administration. Capturing Battambang may be what the Khmer Rouge are after.

A much more encouraging development is the meeting of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council in Paris beginning today to discuss the Cambodian conflict. By sending senior officials to this meeting, the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France showed their renewed resolve to help find an end to the 11-year-old conflict. Their lack of determination, coupled with our Cambodian factions, caused last year's month-long Paris peace conference to end in a deadlock.

The new Paris meeting has a good chance of producing something substantial. At present, all five powers have separately voiced their approval for the UN to play a major role in Cambodia.

The United States and the Soviet Union have agreed to terminate all military aid to their respective Cambodian factions if China also stops aiding the Khmer Rouge. If the external military aid is not stopped, the fighting in Cambodia will drag on. And these three major arms suppliers are to be held responsible for the continued killing and maiming in the war-torn country.

In the final analysis, however, China alone can block or facititate a solution to the Cambodia conflict. Chinese leaders must have realized by now that their support of the Khmer Rouge only further alienates world opinion of China.

If China decides to cooperate with the other concerned parties in ending the Cambodian conflict, it will undoubtedly get some credit for its positive contribution, which could only improve China's international image tarnished by its violent crackdown on pro-democracy students in Tiananmen Square last June.

The tone of Chinese participants in the current Paris meeting will tell whether China is ready to rejoin the civilized world community and conduct itself responsibly.

Editorial Sees Khmer Rouge as Obstacle to Talks

BK1601105690 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 16 Jan 90 p 3

[Editorial: "The Situation in Cambodia"]

[Text] After several dull months which followed the international meeting in Paris in August, the drive for peace in Cambodia has gained strength once more. At

the same time, however, the fighting in Cambodia—by way of an offensive by the resistance forces, particularly the Khmer Rouge—has intensified.

Although the Vietnamese troop withdrawal from Cambodia has not received international recognition, the September Vietnamese withdrawal resulted in a changed military situation there. The Khmer Rouge recently claimed that they had attacked Battambang, the second largest Cambodian city, as well as Phnom Penh.

According to the Khmer Rouge, their attacks in Phnom Penh forced Vietnam to bring Heng Samrin, Hun Sen, and other Cambodian leaders to Ho Chi Minh City. Phnom Penh radio rejected this, but stated that Hun Sen—in an out-of- character move—had met with the Australian deputy foreign minister in Svay Rieng, a province on the Cambodian-Vietnamese border.

Another change in the situation was the announcement by the resistance forces that they are prepared to solve the Cambodian problem by military means. This announcement contrasted with their statement at the beginning of the offensive that they were not seeking a military victory, but were trying to pressure the Phnom Penh government into a new round of peace talks after failure in Jakarta and Paris.

Amidst this change in the military situation, the Australian Government launched a diplomatic move proposing that the United Nations rule Cambodia temporarily while the Phnom Penh government is resolved, and that the Cambodian seat in the United Nations be vacated.

The Australian proposal represents an attempt to reconcile the differences between the four Cambodian factions, which could not agree on an interim government to oversee the general election. Several countries have shown an interest in the Australian proposal, as evidenced by the current meeting in Paris of UN Security Council members.

Even the Soviet Union and China, the main parties involved in the Cambodian conflict, have stated that the United Nations, like Australia, has a role to play in the settlement of the Cambodian problem. Several parties are optimistic that the UN role will make it possible to restore peace in Cambodia. The problem is that the Khmer Rouge is not ready to negotiate at a time when its soldiers are busy fighting to consolidate their bargaining power.

Thailand, Burma To Discuss Narcotics Control

BK1501021090 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Jan 90 p 1

[By Thana Phuphat]

[Text] Chiang Mai—Thailand and Burma will discuss the possibility of establishing a joint anti-narcotics programme that would include getting international aid for narcotics control to anti-Rangoon ethnic rebels, an international anti-drug official said yesterday.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told THE NATION that the proposed international aid would be in the form of material and technical assistance for crop substitution projects, and not financial assistance.

"Bangkok is expected to raise the issue with Rangoon as part of a new international strategy to combat narcotics production in Southeast Asia, particularly in rebel-controlled areas inside Burma," the official said.

Thailand, one of a handful of countries that have tried to improve ties with Burma, has tacitly reached an agreement with ethnic rebel forces in Burma to facilitate the transport of logs it buys from the Burmese government through rebel-controlled areas into Thailand.

"If Thailand could persuade the rebels not to obstruct the log transport, it would certainly be able to discuss narcotics issue with them," the official said.

Members of a US House of Representatives committee on narcotics on Friday [12 January] urged the Thai government to persuade Rangoon on behalf of the United States to resume anti-narcotics operation. The US Government has suspended all of its assistance in narcotics control to Burma following the bloody crackdown on pro-democracy movement in 1988.

Thailand, which has successfully curbed local opium poppy cultivation and heroin production, has now become a major transit point for heroin destined for the West.

Thailand and Burma recently also agreed to set up a joint information centre which would help improve the exchange of information between the two countries' anti-drug authorities. The two neighbours have had no direct cooperation in the past in fighting drug trafficking.

Pol Maj [Police Major] Gen Chaowalit Yotmani, secretary general of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board, said recently opium production in Thailand has decreased to between 20 and 30 tonnes a year, while annual production volumes in Burma and Laos stand at 1,000 and 200 tonnes respectively. Border areas of the three countries form the notorious Golden Triangle, said to be the world's biggest source of heroin.

Daniel A. O'Donohue, the US ambassador to Thailand, said recently that the Thai and US governments "will have to do much more" to cope with the growing drug flow from Southeast Asia to the United States. He said 40-50 per cent of heroin smuggled into the United States came from the region.

Daily Urges Death Penalty for Heroin Traffickers

BK1301121190 Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 13 Jan 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Confiscation of Assets Is Not Enough"]

[Text] Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila disclosed after discussions with Charles Rangel, chairman of the Narcotics Control Committee of the United States House of Representatives, that the U.S. congressman thanked Thailand for having actively cooperated with the United States in efficiently carrying out antinarcotics operations.

However, narcotics continues to be increasingly produced outside the Thai territory, being smuggled through Thailand. Therefore, it is necessary to implement legal measures to cope with the problem. Thailand is in the process of devising a law that gives authorities more power to confiscate the property of convicts involved in drug trafficking. It is believed that such measures will bring about more efficiency in narcotics suppression.

However, the United States has apparently given much less assistance to Thailand for antinarcotics operations than that given to Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia. The United States gives Thailand only U.S. $3.5 million a year, while the Thai Government has to allocate a huge budget of nearly 1 billion baht a year for use in winning over hill tribesmen, preventing them from growing opium, and suppressing drugs production and trafficking.

Thailand has shouldered a heavy burden in in drug suppression, as narcotics is a threat to national security in almost every province. The country has to suffer losses of human resources numbering more than 500,000 people of working age. Medical treatment of drug addicts has proved unsuccessful, despite a number of clinics in Bangkok and upcountry. This is because more drugs are being illicitly smuggled through Thailand.

The proposed law for the confiscation of the property of persons involved in drug trafficking is still too light a measure and may not be effective in real practice, because after the law is passed, those involved in drug trafficking will have to try to find ways to avoid such punishment, which would not be too hard for them to do. Therefore, the drug traffickers are not afraid of the proposed law.

To achieve greater success in narcotics suppression through the law, there should be severe punishment—the death sentence—for a heroin trafficker, because he must be regarded as one who commits a very serious crime against mankind. Such a crime is more vicious and dreadful than one committed against one or two persons because of revenge or greed.

A drug trafficker can harm an unlimited number of persons—even the future of the country—unless the authorities take strong measures of vigorous prevention and suppression. Such a criminal should be definitely eliminated. The death sentence would rapidly cut down drug trafficking. In the meantime, there should be other laws and punitive measures to detain drug addicts to ensure effective medical treatment for them.

Vietnam

Nguyen Co Thach, Qian Qichen Exchange Messages

BK1701114690 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach and his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen, have exchanged messages of greeting on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our country and China.

Minister Nguyen Co Thach's message said:

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the SRV and the PRC, I would like to extend to the fraternal government and people of China my warm greetings. Vietnam and China are two neighboring socialist countries. The two peoples, with their time-honored tradition of friendship, were once united and assisted each other in the struggle for national liberation and national construction. The Vietnamese Government and people always cherish this traditional friendship and do their best to improve the relations between the two countries. We are convinced that with the efforts of both sides, relations between the two countries and the age-old friendship between the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples will certainly be restored and developed in the fundamental and long-term interests of the two peoples and for the sake of peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the rest of the world.

I wish the Chinese people new achievements in socialist construction.

The message from Minister Qian Qichen said:

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the PRC and the SRV, may I extend my heartfelt greetings to the fraternal Vietnamese people.

China and Vietnam are two neighboring countries linked by the same mountains and rivers. In their protracted struggle against the imperialists and colonialists, the two peoples once shared the same opinion, supported each other, and cultivated a warm friendship. The Chinese Government and people treasure this traditional friendship between our two peoples and will strive untiringly to restore the relations of friendship and good neighborliness between the two countries at an early date.

On this occasion, the Vietnam-China Friendship Association and the China-Vietnam Friendship Association have also exchanged messages of greeting.

Chinese Minister Views PRC-SRV Relations

BK1701105690 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said that the restoration of the normal relations between Vietnam and China will be in the interest of two peoples in (?whatever circumstances).

Speaking at a reception for Vietnamese Ambassador to China Mr Nguyen Minh Phuong on 15 January, the Chinese foreign minister asked the Vietnamese ambassador to convey his best regards to Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach.

In reply, Ambassador Nguyen Minh Phuong said that the Vietnamese Government and people wish for an early normalization of Sino-Vietnamese relations and hope that the two sides join efforts to achieve their goal.

Conditions on Sino-Vietnamese Border Discussed

OW1701022090 Hanoi International Service in Mandarin 1130 GMT 27 Dec 89

[Article: "A Record of Events along the Border" from the "For Sino-Vietnamese Friendship" program]

[Text] Dear listener friends, normalization of Sino-Vietnamese relations has still not been resumed. However, relations have taken a turn for the better over the past year. The residents of Vietnam and China can cross the border to visit each other's relatives and exchange articles of everyday use. Vietnamese grain and food are delivered to the Chinese side to help the border residents in China solve their grain shortage, while Chinese cloth, porcelain, vacuum flasks, electrical fans, and other articles of everyday use are delivered to Vietnam to enrich the Vietnamese market. Many Chinese have relatives and friends living in Vietnam; conversely, many Vietnamese have relatives and friends living in China. After having been separated for 10 years, they now have favorable conditions to visit and help each other across the border. As many as 20 households in (Shidan) Township alone in (Gaolu) County, Lang Son Province, Vietnam, have relatives living on the Chinese side. The scenes of reunion were quite touching. Many people wept for joy. Quite a number of local governments along the border create conditions for mutual cooperation between localities across the border and do things which are beneficial for border residents.

(Gaolu) County in Lang Son Province, Vietnam, is contiguous to Ningming County in Guangxi, China. Earlier this year, the water buffalo belonging to four households in (Chuli) Township in the county strayed into China. Immediately after these buffalo were caught, the border residents on the Chinese side notified the townsfolk of (Chuli) Township to come into China to identify them and take them back to Vietnam. The water buffalo of two village households in (Bao Ling) Township, (Gaolu) County, Lang Son Province, were stolen, carried away, and sold on the Chinese side. The Chinese side notified the Vietnamese side after the culprit was arrested. Carrying with them a letter of reference issued by the local government, the villagers of the two households in (Bao Ling) Township went over to the Chinese side to identify and take back their water buffalo. Occasionally, criminals have come over from China into Vietnam's (Bao Ling) Township. Some were caught stealing by the Vietnamese border residents and the local government and turned over to the local government on the Chinese side for handling. It was learned that these criminals were habitual thieves in China.

The fact that the border residents of Vietnam and China can now visit each other's relatives and exchange daily necessities is good for improving their lives as well as their feelings. Of course, it also gives rise to the problem of public order. Its solution becomes the concern of the two countries. China's RENMIN GONGAN BAO [People's Public Security Newspaper] published an article on the issue of public order along the border on 5 September. It said: As border trade expanded, merchants converged on the border from various localities. The number of people temporarily staying in the border area rose drastically. Many trade points were formed as a matter of course. It was impossible to control most of these trade points. Illegal dealings, theft, fisticuffs, and traffic jams followed as a consequence. China's frontier guards arrested five thieves. One of them lived in (Wenlang) County, Lang Son Province, Vietnam; the other four in China's Pingxiang [City]. The five of them formed a gang to commit theft and robbery in the border areas between Vietnam and China.

It is an issue that badly needs a solution if public order along the border is to be properly maintained to better serve the border residents of the two sides. However, it is also a very difficult issue as Sino-Vietnamese relations have not been normalized yet. (Li Mei), responsible person in (Gaolu) County, Lang Son Province, told us about this problem: So far, Sino-Vietnamese relations have not been normalized. I think the local governments and peoples of the two sides should, and are in a position to, cooperate in drawing up specific regulations to maintain public order in the border areas and to protect the interests of the two countries' border residents. We are preparing to make suggestions to the local government on the Chinese side to discuss with us a solution to this problem. Both sides can do some things which are concrete. For example, some Vietnamese criminals escaped to China to commit crimes there and vice versa. We can notify each other of these criminal cases and coordinate with each other to round up these criminals; or, local authorities of the two sides can work together to solve the cases of stray water buffalo and oxen and stolen property reported by the border residents of the two countries. For the sake of their own interests, the local governments and residents on both sides of the border between Vietnam and China must be sincere and try to cooperate with each other to properly maintain public order along the border.

Dear listener friends, the above was a broadcasting of the article entitled "A Record of Events along the Border." We end our transmission of the program "For Sino-Vietnamese Friendship" here.

Control of Cross-Border Goods Increased

BK1701041090 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Text] Complying with the viewpoint of the Council of Ministers, Lang Son Province has decided to set up a joint checkpoint at Dong Banh on route 1-A between Hanoi and Lang Son with the aim of intensifying the control of [Chinese-Vietnamese] cross-border goods and inspecting and supervising traffic safety.

Over the past 6 months, by satisfactorily carrying out its assigned duties, the Dong Banh joint checkpoint has discovered 420 cases involving illegal delivery of goods to the border and confiscated more than 21,500 kg of nonferrous metals—including copper, tin, and nickel—valued at more than 150 million dong. The checkpoint also seized and turned over nearly 3,000 kg of copper to various Army or public security organs for compiling records to prosecute some truck drivers of these organs on charges of using state facilities to transport contraband goods.

During the past 6 months, the checkpoint has collected nearly 311 million dong from industrial and commercial taxes and fines imposed on illegal business activities and petty offences.

The Dong Banh joint checkpoint is also a unit that has contributed positively to implementing Directive No 135 of the Council of Ministers on crime supression. The checkpoint has coordinated with local public security and Army units in arresting dozens of dangerous criminals operating on Route 1-A. Many of its members—such as Comrades Hoang Tien, Ma Van, and Vy Van Nhuan—have earned the people's praise for their sense of responsibility and bravery in combating crimes.

According to the viewpoint of the Council of Ministers, from Hanoi to Lang City, only one joint checkpoint is known to have operated properly under the joint program and that is the Dong Banh checkpoint. Meanwhile, the operations of the other joint checkpoints, both stationary and mobile, are illogical and should be eliminated because they only seek to block market activities.

Transit Center for Amerasian Children Opens

BK1201030190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Jan 90 p 9

[Text] Ho Chi Minh City—A transit centre for Amerasian children was inaugurated here on Wednesday [10 January] by Vietnamese and American officials from the Orderly Departure Programme (ODP).

According to its director, Le Van Thien, the centre can accommodate a thousand persons.

It was built in six months on a large tract of land in Tan Binh District in a place called Dam Sen (lotus pond).

It was in mid-1989 that American and Vietnamese authorities agreed to the construction of the centre.

Funds were allocated by the United States in July and construction started shortly afterwards.

More than 500 people, working seven days a week, built the two-storey centre in less than six months at a cost of $1 million.

Vietnamese Foreign Ministry representative Nguyen Van Bang, director of the North American Department, insisted on the great humanitarian meaning of the centre.

"The issue of Amerasian children has been of great concern to both the US and Vietnam," he said.

More than 31,000 Amerasian children have left Vietnam for the US. At least as many will leave during the next few years, coming mostly from southern provinces.

"All Vietnamese wish you happiness," said Mr Bang. "We hope that when you are in the country of your father, you will remember the country of your mother.

"You will be the bridge between America and Vietnam and there will be no more war."

ODP head Willam Fleming replied in fluent Vietnamese.

Like the Vietnamese officials, Mr Fleming noted the importance of the Amerasian issue for both countries and praised the cooperation from Vietnam that "made this centre possible."

The centre offers large, bright and comfortable facilities. Even before it was opened officially, a thousand children were processed in the new transit accommodations.

Paper Criticizes West for Backing Afghan Rebels

BK1301070490 Hanoi VNA in English 0624 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 12—The national daily NHAN DAN in a commentary today condemns the Afghan reactionary forces backed by the United States and Pakistan for continuing to escalate the war in Afghanistan and destabilize the regional situation in an attempt to impose their form of state on the Afghan people, trampling upon the latter's right to self-determination.

The article, referring to the Afghan situation after two years' implementation of the policy of national reconciliation worked out by the government and the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, says: the Afghan people's military victories and the inspiring results of the national reconciliation have not only smashed the West's concoctions about the "collapse" of the Najibullah government, but also testified to the increasingly stable

situation in the Republic of Afghanistan. These constitute a guarantee for the strengthening and broadening of the unity and solidarity betwen the patriotic national forces and other peace-loving people in Afghanistan, encouraging them to contribute more and more actively to the safeguarding of peace and national construction in that country. The efforts on the part of the Governments of France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain, Japan and the United States to reopen their embassies in Kabul due to the improvement of security there have helped enhance the international prestige of the Republic of Afghanistan. In conclusion, the paper reaffirms that the Vietnamese people are always standing by the side of the fraternal Afghan people.

Secretary of Indian Foreign Ministry Arrives

BK1501154590 Hanoi VNA in English 1518 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA January 15—Secretary of India's Ministry of External Affairs C. Das Gupta arrived here on January 14 on a working visit to Vietnam at the invitation of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry.

Today, the Indian diplomat was received by First Deputy Foreign Minister Dinh Nho Liem. During the reception, Dinh Nho Liem hailed the visit, and expressed his satisfaction at the fine development of the relations of friendship and multiform cooperation between the two countries. He highly appreciated the strong support of the government and fraternal people of India for the Vietnamese people's just cause, and India's positive contributions to peace, stability in Southeast Asia, and to the search for a just solution to the Cambodian issue.

For his part, Das Gupta affirmed the Indian Government's consistent policy of strengthening the traditional friendship and cooperation with Vietnam, contributing to peace, stability and cooperation in the region. Das Gupta stressed India's desire for an early political solution to the Cambodian issue and for coordinated actions with Vietnam and other countries concerned in that direction.

Also today, Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien held talks with the Indian diplomat on measures to strengthen and enhance the efficiency of the bilateral cooperation as well as on international and regional issues of mutual concern. The talks took place in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual trust and understanding.

Secretary Das Gupta had working sessions with Deputy Minister of External Economic Relations Dinh Phu Dinh, visited President Ho Chi Minh's home and office, and called at the Museum of the Vietnam People's Army.

The Indian secretary will attend a ceremony to inaugurate the Indian General Consulate in Ho Chi Minh City.

Article Describes Reaction to E. Europe Events

BK1201065590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Jan 90 p 4

[Article by Jacques Bekaert under the rubric "Eye on Indochina" and headlined "East Europe: The View From Hanoi"]

[Text] Ho Chi Minh City—Last Sunday the Club of Resistance Fighters held a special meeting here. The club members are prominent revolutionaries who were active in the South during the war. The war over in 1975, many of them were told to enjoy life and stop messing in public affairs. That, Hanoi leaders told them, was a job for the party—and its mostly northern cadres.

General Tran Van Tra, who played a crucial role in the final campaign of the war, published his memoirs and started with the last tome, the one dealing with the final "spring" victory. He emphasised the role of the South. He was promptly told to shut up and his book was withdrawn from bookshops.

As the Vietnamese economy plunged to abysmal levels, the southern revolutionaries watched in despair. Until finally, in 1988, as the political and economic atmosphere of the country started improving, they formed a club and launched a monthly magazine, CAU LAC BO KHANG CHIEN [club of resistance fighters]

Not everybody enjoyed their vocal criticisms. But they represented a voice that could not be ignored. Especially today. There has been much thinking at the top of the party in recent months, and the lesson of Eastern Europe is not lost.

This is why the club had an unusual guest last Sunday. Party Secretary General Nguyen Van Linh himself, although still in poor health (but there are no confirmations here of his possible forthcoming resignation).

More than fifty members attended the Sunday reunion. A dozen of them expressed, with what a participant said was "frankness and reason" Their views on Vietnam's present situation. We have too much anarchy but not enough freedom, said one of the members. Law and order is not respected but at the same time there are still too many restrictions on public expression.

They also talked about the winds of change blowing in Eastern Europe. Socialist regimes are doing badly, club members declared, because of the existence of serious problems within local communist parties. These parties, said several members, are paying the price of their arrogance, their corruption, their lack of concern for the people. The party must absolutely avoid these kinds of errors in Vietnam.

"We agree that each country must solve its own problems," replied Nguyen Van Linh. "As far as Vietnam is concerned, I can promise you that the process of democratisation of our political life will go on."

Until recently there had been few official reactions in Vietnam to the quick succession of deep changes affecting most countries of what used to be called the East bloc. It led many foreign observers to believe that Vietnam was embarrassed by the changes which have seriously affected East European communist parties.

But dozens of private and on-the-record conversations during the past week with Vietnamese officials, journalists and ordinary citizens indicated that, on the contrary, many informed people here in Ho Chi Minh City are quite confident that dramatic changes in Eastern Europe will have a positive effect on Vietnam's own political life.

According to the editor of one of Vietnam's major publications, the events which took place during the past few months in the socialist countries of Europe clearly show that economic democratisation is not sufficient to placate the population. This, he said, was the most important lesson from what happened in Poland, East Germany, Bulgaria and others. Citizens, he said, do not see economic reforms as all that is needed. What people also want is a more democratic political system.

Another source, close to the city's committee, declared that if 1989 was a year of economic renovation, 1990 should be a year of further and deeper political transformation in the country.

Nobody suggested that there will be an end to the present prominent role of the Communist Party of Vietnam. But all sources insisted that the leadership of the party was now convinced of the necessity to further democratise every sector of Vietnam's life.

"Different to many East European communist parties, and for the past three or four years, the Communist Party of Vietnam has been seriously considering the need to improve the quality of political life," a source said. What happened in Romania did not really surprise Hanoi, he said, "because there was little sympathy for Ceaucescu, who had never been seen as a reliable friend by the Vietnamese party."

But party leaders are aware that what took place in Eastern Europe was a direct consequence of the lack of democracy, of the refusal of the various communist parties to change and adapt to the new situation, he added. "Most senior party leaders in Eastern Europe were cut off from their own people. At least some of our leaders understand they must listen directly to what people have to say."

During the last session of the eighth National Assembly in mid-December, Vo Chi Cong, a key politburo member, told delegates that the crisis of socialism in Eastern Europe was partly due to wrong policies, corruption, bad management and adherence to old methods. This speech, said an interlocutor at TUOI TRE (YOUTH), the dynamic organ of Ho Chi Minh youth, "clearly shows that the Vietnamese Communist Party understood the depth of the popular feelings in Eastern Europe."

If Poland had been an isolated case, another source said, Hanoi would have probably seen it as they did last August, at the time of the seventh plenum: an accident of history, an individual occurrence, the result of partial failure of the local party leaders.

Although Nguyen Van Linh's speech at the seventh plenum led many outside observers to believe that Vietnam was reverting to a new hard line, this has not been translated in the country's daily life, as this correspondent has been able to experience twice since last August.

Some elements of the Vietnamese Communist Party certainly tend to stick to the traditional line, a source said, "but they are increasingly isolated." One of TUOI TRE editors remarked that there has been in recent years a great improvement in the selection of party cadres.

"They are younger, better educated, more aware of problems, more sensitive to the population's needs," he said. Dr Nguyen Xuan Oanh, a respected economic adviser to the government and member of the National Assembly, said intensity of debate during the last session of the National Assembly was another evidence of the progress of democracy in Vietnam. The National Assembly, noted several people I talked to, now has real power. It can turn down draft laws or send them back for revision. It is a voice nobody can ignore any more. Even laws that have been approved by the Assembly, like the recent and much controversial press law is still being challenged by journalists.

We want to amend this law, and will work hard to do it," a local prominent journalist said.

"Our Vietnamese democracy will not be a copy of that of another country," an official said. "We can not copy what takes place in Hungary or East Germany because conditions are so different from our own," added a TUOI TRE journalist. "But we must be aware of what is happening elsewhere and continue to improve the quality of political life in Vietnam," said a member of the city administration.

All sources admitted that the system still required many reforms and improvement, and expressed the wish to receive better, faster and more objective information concerning the rest of the world. Because of Vietnam's relative isolation in the past, "we have misjudged some international events," sources said. "Democratisation means better information. We are confident that it was also the point of view of the party. Even if we do not agree with several points of the new press law, we do not doubt that there will be more, not less, democracy in the future."

It is obviously much too early to talk about political pluralism, an old communist militant and member of the

Club of Resistance Fighters said. "We lack a democratic tradition. But we must make sure our party is a clean party. The more freedom there is, the better the chances of the party," he concluded.

Radio Discusses 'True Sense' of World Detente

BK1601133990 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Many world political critics held that the most important and decisive character in international political life before entering the last decade of the 20th century is the stage of detente. How can we understand the word detente in the true sense of the word? Here is our radio comment on this question:

A few year ago, the world was sunk in an atmosphere of cold war. But 1988 and 1989 witnessed many events creating important steps toward charges in world political life. The Soviet Union and the United States, after an interval of many years, held several summit meetings leading to the elimination of short- and intermediate-range nuclear missiles, the possibility for a 50 percent reduction of strategic weapons, and the elimination of a large quantity of chemical weapons. In May 1989, a Sino-Soviet summit officially restored normal relations between the two countries after 30 years of friction. The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and the European Economic Community have established official relations. These developments are leading the world to detente, the longest period of (?world detente) since World War II.

The problem is whether detente can lead to world peace, security, and stability or not, and whether detente itself can eliminate the struggle between the two world systems or not. The Soviet Union, the socialist countries, and progressive mankind consider detente a major factor to peace, nonviolence, civilization, and happiness. However, the imperialist forces are using world detente to materialize the strategy of peaceful evolution aimed at eliminating socialism in the last decade of the 20th century and reviving imperialism throughout the world. For this reason, the struggle between the two world systems has changed its form, opposing cooperation with struggle and dialogue with confrontation in the framework of peaceful coexistence.

The growing trend of detente and dialogue is (?a good omen) but not a firm condition for assuring world peace, security, and stability, and it is impossible with this trend to conclude that the world has shifted from confrontation to dialogue and that class struggle has lost its meaning. Detente and dialogue are part of a very fierce struggle between the two world systems in the new international situation. The trend for detente will continue in the 20th century, which will be a valuable period of time for all countries to consolidate their strength and position before entering the third millennium.

At this stage, international life will continue to contain contradictions and factors causing instability. The imperialists and other reactionary forces have not yet renounced their plot to break the military equilibrium and redraw the world political map. The aggressive attack by the U.S. on Panama recently has testified to this fact and warned all forces fighting for peace, national independence, and world stability to be more vigilant.

Secretariat Issues Circular on Political Drive

BK1701143490 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 17 Jan 90

["Text" of circular issued by the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Secretariat on 15 January]

[Text] Our entire party, people, and Army are moving toward celebrating the party's 60th founding anniversary, 3 February 1930-3 February 1990. The party Central Committee has addressed a letter to our comrades, people, and combatants on the occasion of the major anniversaries in 1990. The forthcoming eighth plenum of the party Central Committee will discuss renovation and strengthening of the party's mass motivation work.

To make a broad collection of the opinions of cadres, party members, and large numbers of the people in order to help the party Central Committee's Eighth Plenum achieve fine results and, at the same time, to contribute to organizing the celebration of the party's 60th founding anniversary in a practical manner, the party Central Committee Secretariat will guide the organization of a political activity drive according to the following contents:

Basic party organizations must meet to study the 1990 New Year letter from the party Central Committee and the address by the comrade party general secretary at the ceremony to be held to mark the party's 60th founding anniversary, and must link these documents with the situation at the grass-roots level. Particularly, they must review the party's relations with the people, hold discussions to bring into play strengths and rectify weaknesses, and contribute opinions to the party Central Committee's Eighth Plenum.

Attention should be paid to the following major issues:

1. Assessing results of the implementation of the party's and state's positions and policies and the sixth party congress' renovation line, especially concerning the socioeconomic aspects, the care for material and cultural life, the broadening of democracy among the people, the security and national defense issue, the people's requirements and aspirations, and the application of grass-roots party organizations' positions and policies.

2. Assessing the strengths and weaknesses of leadership and party-building work, paying attention to relations between the party and state, to work related to the mass organizations, and to the management and building of

the administrative apparatus, activities and organization of mass associations, and suggestions regarding this question.

3. Defining the tasks that the grass-roots level must carry out in the immediate future to bring into full play the people's role as masters; strengthening party-people relations to fulfill the tasks for 1990.

After the party chapters have met, the grass-roots party committees must combine their opinions into a self-criticism report of the party organizations and submit it to the people for their comments. Meetings of the mass organizations should be held at the grass-roots level to disseminate the party Central Committee's letter and the comrade party general secretary's address, to hear the grass-roots party committees present the party organizations' self-criticism report, and to express critical opinions of the party's leadership and the work of party chapters, cadres, and party members. The mass organizations must carry out self-criticism concerning their own activities, and the party committees will report the results of these discussions to the higher levels.

The provincial, city, district, and precinct party committees and equivalent levels must share among themselves the task of assisting the grass-roots levels in satisfactorily organizing this political activity drive, paying due attention to different grass-roots units, areas, and targets. Reports must be made afterward on the general situation, especially in key grass-roots units, and forwarded to the party Central Committee Secretariat before 28 February 1990. The press organs and news agencies must closely monitor this political activity drive and make timely reports in the press and on the radio. Attention must be paid to publishing articles that contribute opinions on renovation and strengthening of the party's mass motivation work.

Upon receipt of this circular, all party committee echelons, particularly the district, precinct, and grass-roots party committees should work out plans for its immediate implementation. This political activity drive must be conducted in February 1990.

Decision Issued on Protection of Highways

BK1701032390 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] On 3 January 1990, the Council of Ministers chairman issued a decision to enforce Decree No 203-HDBT regarding the regulations on national highways protection.

According to this decision, the scope of highways protection includes traffic travelling along the protected highways, and ensures that alternate roads will be opened when construction is being carried out on primary highways.

Land along highways under protection can be used only to grow grain, subsidiary food crops, and green plants as guided by the Communication and Transportation Ministry. All construction projects along national highways, especially Highway No 1, such as electricity and postal communication lines; water conservancy canals; office buildings and private houses; houses built for free occupancy on land allocated by the hamlet, village, district, precinct, or provincial and city administrations; or houses built on the initiative of the people and agencies involved, are considered violations of laws and regulations. Within 6 months, effective with the signing of this decision, violating agencies and private individuals must move their projects out of the traffic corridor, 20 meters off both sides of the highways. The state will not punish anyone violating this law, yet it will not give any compensation to individuals or agencies which must abide by the law.

On those sections of highways which parallel city roads, according to approved maps, the corridor of road protection on the city roads is the width of the sidewalks. If those projects built prior to the promulgation of Decree No 203-HDBT on 21 Dec 1982 fall under this law and have not been moved, they must be moved out. The state will view each specific case in order to make compensation in accordance with current regulations. If all those permanent and temporary construction projects or houses—no matter who the owners are, including the communications sector—which lie along the highways and city roads—meaning the surface of the road as well as the sidewalks or ditches on both sides—and which were built either before or after the promulgation of the regulations on road protection, affect directly the safe protection of roads, they must be resolutely dismantled.

The decision also clearly points out the duties of road management enterprises which are to continuously repair the roads and ensure that the surfaces of roads, bridges, and sluices are free of potholes, puddles, and obstacles. Action must be taken to protect all road signs and milestones and to prevent the destruction of roads and bridges. National highways must be managed in accordance with the prescribed principles to ensure constant, smooth movement on the surface of roads and sidewalks for both vehicles and pedestrians.

No vehicles or obstacles are allowed on sidewalks, especially along those roads going through cities, towns, and populated areas. It is forbidden to use roads and sidewalks to dry rice straw and for other business and production activities, and to place barriers on roads to reserve space for a meeting or marketplace, thus hindering traffic. No shops, stalls, or huts are allowed to be installed on sidewalks. Checks of vehicles must not hamper traffic. Those vehicles which do not have proper safety equipment, cause pollution, exceed load capacities, obstruct traffic, and damage roads, will be fined as prescribed by the Communications and Transportation Ministry.

Localities must collect road taxes to pay for the maintenance of roads and bridges, and should not transfer

funds for other purposes. All violations will be severely dealt with in accordance with the law.

Dong Sy Nguyen Attends Transportation Meeting

BK1501111590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] The communication and transportation sector held a conference in Hanoi from 11-13 January to review its 1989 activities and discuss tasks and orientations for 1990. In 1989, transportation of goods experienced acute difficulty. On many occasions, major campaigns had to be mobilized to transport such essential goods as coal, grain, fertilizer, and cement. However, thanks to concrete changes in the management mechanism, the communication and transportation sector was able to mobilize nonstate economic components and state-run transportation units to improve the two-way transportation system, thus meeting requirements in delivering essential goods. Transportation of passengers was also improved in quality, facilities, and services. Regarding the industrial and engineering domains, the sector helped many shipyards overcome difficulties in capital. Concerning capital construction, the sector took many correct measures to overcome major obstacles and to ensure effective communication and transportation, despite state reduction in capital investment by 8-15 percent.

Comrade Dong Sy Nguyen, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, attended and addressed the conference. He highly appraised the achievements scored by the sector and commended the eight units that recently received outstanding unit banners bestowed by the Council of Ministers. He urged that in 1990—the concluding year of the current 5-year development plan—the communication and transportation sector must achieve fundamental steps for the next 5-year development plan. To achieve this, the sector must surge forward to improve the transportation of goods and fully utilize the combined strength of grass-roots units, branches, and echelons to ensure effective communication and transportation—one of the important tasks in developing the national economy in the years ahead.

Secretariat Holds Red River Delta Meeting

BK1201063790 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 8 Jan 90

[Text] A conference was held in Nam Dinh city, Ha Nam Ninh, from 4 to 6 January by the party Central Committee Secretariat to review the implementation of Resolution No 10 in the Red River Delta and Thanh Hoa and Nghe Tinh Provinces. Attending the conference were representatives of the party committee echelons and those in charge of agriculture from eight provinces in the region, as well as representatives of the ministries and central-level sectors concerned.

The conference was chaired by Comrade Le Phuoc Tho, secretary of the party Central Committee, and Comrade Nguyen Ngoc Triu, member of the party Central Committee and head of the party Central Committee Agriculture Department.

In their statements, the participants all noted the great achievements recorded in agriculture and in the rural areas during 2 years of implementing Resolution No 10, especially in 1989.

The conference affirmed that in the process of implementing Resolution No 10, apart from the positive aspects and basically substantial successes, problems in numerous respects remain unsolved and the results obtained are not even and are poor in some aspects in certain localities.

There are new problems that must be studied further and solved, such as contradictions between the requirements of the production of goods and the division of labor, the irrational assignment of work, and the prevalent practice of allotting equal plots of land without regard to needs and possibilities. There are also income differences in the rural areas, where a number of needy peasant families still encounter difficulties despite the fact that their livelihood has been further improved. Most of these families are those entitled to social welfare programs and are those to whom our society owes something in return.

Summing up the conference, Comrade Le Phuoc Tho pointed to the new requirements and tasks in implementing the Political Bureau's Resolution No 10 aimed at consolidating the movement for cooperativization in accordance with the new substance so as to advance the peasants and rural areas to socialism.

Doan Khue Visits Troops at North Border

BK1501103590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] On the occasion of the New Year and in preparation for the celebration of the Vietnamese traditional new year, General Doan Khue, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Political Bureau and chief of the Vietnam People's Army [VPA] joint general staff, recently visited military units on duty at the northern border areas. He presented them with gifts and inspected local conditions to find ways and means to ensure effective training and strengthen combat readiness so as to meet requirements for defending the region and the fatherland.

Visiting units' strongholds in Vi Xuyen District, Ha Tuyen Province, the chief of the VPA joint general staff and his entourage reviewed area combat defense plans, their capability for conducting combined armed combat, the system of battlefield fortifications, and the weapons and equipment maintenance of these units. The general cordially talked to and encouraged cadres and combatants at these strongholds. He commended the M-4 unit of the B-3 group and the H-47 unit of the Ha Tuyen local Army for their efforts in overcoming difficulties to become self-reliant in improving the Army daily life, in

exploiting local materials to build barracks and garages, in strengthening battlefield fortifications, and in enhancing combat readiness. The general also urged these units to formulate an integrated plan to prevent and promptly eradicate malaria, ensure good health for all troops, organize cultural courses for combatants of ethnic minority groups, and strive to eliminate illiteracy.

Inspecting logistics work to ensure the smooth supply of goods and materials for the coming traditional new year—the Year of the Horse—the general welcomed various units' efforts in actively reserving goods and exceeding plan norms. He urged that cadres and combatants should celebrate the new year in an economical manner while striving to enhance vigilance. He also visited families of ethnic minority people living in the border district of Vi Xuyen. He urged the local people to engage in peaceful production, to bring into full play the tradition of patriotism and fighting against the enemy, and to help the Army to firmly maintain security at the fatherland's border areas. The general presented a gift to Mrs Duong Thi Hieu, an exemplary mother of the Ha Giang city combatant mothers' association. He was moved by the great contributions made by the association to combatants on duty at the border strongholds.

In his working visit to the party committees and the military commands of Ha Tuyen Province and Ha Giang city, the chief of the VPA general staff analyzed the schemes of imperialism that have caused changes in current international politics, especially changes in the socialist system. He also affirmed the CPV's military standpoint in combining economy with national defense for the cause of building and defending the fatherland.

NHAN DAN Hails 'Freedom' of Press, Speech

BK1401042490 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 8 Jan 90

[NHAN DAN editorial entitled: "Freedom of Speech and Freedom of the Press"; from the Daily Press Review for 8 January]

[Text] The editorial says: Freedom of speech and freedom of the press are essential rights for promoting the citizen's fundamental rights. The law on the press institutionalizes these rights and defines the relations between the press and the authorities, between the press and society, and among the press circle.

The law on the press helps ensure the state efforts to create favorable conditions for citizens to exercise their freedom of the press and freedom of speech in the press and for the press to correctly develop its role. Freedom of the press in essence is the right to provide information and to be informed. A society will have no freedom of the press if its citizens have no rights in providing and receiving information.

The law on the press stipulates: The citizens have the rights to be informed through the press and to provide information to the press without being censored by any organization or individual. The press has the duties and rights to make truthful reports on all aspects of domestic and international situations; to propagandize and disseminate the party's lines, positions, policies and the state's laws; to reflect and guide public opinion and serve as a forum for the people to exercise their right to freedom of speech; to discover and commend good examples and new factors, and to struggle against law-breaking acts and other negative phenomena in society.

The press' and journalists' right to operate within the framework of the law will be protected by the state. No organization or individual may limit or obstruct the activities of the press and journalists. Nobody may abuse the freedom of the press and freedom of speech to infringe on the interests of the state, collectives, and citizens.

Nguyen Quyet Addresses Military Meeting

BK1601123990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Text] The military inspection sector recently held a conference to assess its military inspection work in 1989. General Nguyen Quyet, secretary of the party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of State, and director of the General Political Department, addressed the conference.

The conference affirmed that last year, the military inspection sector surmounted numerous difficulties resulting from an unstable and irrational organizational structure. Due to many developments in the social situation and to the strong effects of social negativism on the armed forces, the crime rate in the Army increased with many complex changes. However, by striving to satisfactorily fulfill its functions and duties, the sector was able to serve various political tasks of the Army effectively.

Together with the unit commanders and organs concerned, the sector stepped up activities to check and prevent infractions in the management of the Army, as well as the management of weapons, materials, technical equipment, and finance. It also concentrated on struggling against serious crimes such as murder; undermining public order and security; taking possession of arms, explosives, and military facilities; and other acts involving or violating the relations between cadres and soldiers.

The conference also set forth the operational orientations for the sector in 1990 to enable it to effectively serve all political tasks of the Army with emphasis on the need to firmly maintain political security, to consolidate social order and safety, to improve the quality of the task of developing the armed forces, and to ensure combat readiness.

Paper Reviews Revolution Objective, History

BK1701085590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Article by Dang Hoa in QUAN DOI NHAN DAN: "Socialism: Objective of the Vietnamese Revolution"—date not given]

[Text] In 1920, Comrade Nguyen Ai Quoc arrived at a decision to accept Marxism-Leninism and to lead the Vietnamese nation along the revolutionary path of the proletariat. Comrade Nguyen Ai Quoc asserted that after completing national liberation, the independent Vietnam country would be built and developed along the socialist line. The first class of Vietnamese proletarian revolutionaries—President Ho Chi Minh's students—were enlightened and educated by him, have accepted this revolutionary viewpoint and have profoundly realized that national independence must be linked closely to the advance toward socialism, because only in this way, can the laboring people who are absolutely the majority of the nation, escape from their doomed life of poverty and hardship under oppression.

When dealing with the nature and mission of the revolution in Indochina, the October 1930 political platform of the Indochinese Communist Party asserted: In the beginning, the Indochinese Revolution will be a bourgeois revolution for human rights because the revolution has not been able to directly resolve the problems of socialist organization and the bourgeois human rights revolution is a preparatory period for a social revolution. However, after the revolution is completed and Vietnam has gained independence, Indochina will ask the dictatorship of other countries' proletariat for help to develop itself, bypassing the stage of capitalism, and will struggle straight ahead to the socialist path.

The platform of the Communist Party of Vietnam responded to the aspiration of the laboring masses who volunteered to gather around and follow the party in the struggle to withstand untold sacrifices and hardships in order to achieve the platform. Through long years of combat under the Communist Party's banner, even when they were taken to the execution ground or were being tortured in imperialist prisons, even when they had no food or clothes, and even when they were mistakenly operating deep into the jungle and on high mountains, the revolutionary combatants and the laboring masses always remained loyal. They perseveringly fought to achieve their dream of achieving the marvelous saga of turning an enslaved worker into a free man—excerpt from Nguyen Ai Quoc's MEMOIRS OF A SUNKEN BOAT.

The anti-French resistance ended victoriously. The Communist Party of Vietnam at its third national congress in 1960 decided to advance the north quickly, vigorously and firmly to socialism. The anti-U.S. struggle for national salvation lasted 20 years. In that period, the same political objective of advancing toward a just society without human exploitation turned the north into a firm rearguard base area and decided the victory for the liberation of the South and the total unification of the country.

In 1975, the people's national democratic revolution was victoriously completed countrywide. In 15 successive years following the war and at the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Party Congresses, the Vietnamese communists asserted that the unified Vietnam would advance along the socialist path. In recent years, due to many different causes, some socialist countries have encountered acute difficulties. Taking advantage of this occasion, imperialism has combined and is combining peaceful development with military deterrence. Its frenzied and cruel acts have daily and hourly borne effects on some socialist countries in order to steer them toward the capitalist Free World.

Socialism was formerly the dream and aspiration of the laboring masses. Now it has become a direct struggle objective of our people and the revolution in our country. Manifesting clearly the revolutionary nature and its firm stand with Marxist-Leninist principles for its struggle objectives throughout the past 60 years, in August 1989, at the party Central Committee Seventh Plenum, the Vietnamese communists declared that the everlasting and unchangeable objective of our party and people is to successfully build socialism, the first stage of the economic form of a communist society on Vietnamese territory.

Advancing toward socialism was the objective chosen by Uncle Ho 70 years ago after an observation tour of many countries in the world. This objective was selected 60 years ago by the Communist Party of Vietnam and included in its political platform when it made its first appearance. Also aiming mainly at advancing toward this objective, generations of Vietnamese communists and laboring masses have sacrificially fought to overcome storms, hardships, and dangers during the revolutionary course, in order to build the present Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Australia

Evans Welcomes UN Paris Communique on Cambodia

BK1701055090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0453 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Canberra, Jan 17 (AFP)—Australia's Foreign Minister Gareth Evans welcomed here Wednesday the United Nations Security Council's latest communique on Cambodia, saying it backed his government's peace plan for the country.

Mr. Evans was commenting on a statement from the council's five permanent members on Tuesday after a two-day meeting in Paris which urged the U.N. to verify the withdrawal of foreign troops and supervise "free and fair elections."

The Paris meeting followed an Australian-initiated peace proposal on Cambodia late last year and intense diplomatic lobbying by Mr. Evans' special envoy, Michael Costello.

In a communique, the Australian foreign minister said the Paris statement "picks up the major theme of the Australian proposal and, although understandably unspecific, contains everything we could reasonably have hoped for at this stage."

Mr. Evans warned, however, that complex and formidable difficulties lie ahead and pledged to continue his government's behind-the-scenes consultations with participants in last year's Paris conference on Cambodia, and the U.N. Secretariat.

Cambodia is torn by a conflict between the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government and a tripartite guerrilla coalition, including ousted former rulers the Khmer Rouge, which occupies the country's seat at the United Nations.

Spokesman Comments Further

BK1701024890 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0100 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Australia has promised to work closely with the United Nations and the Paris conference on Cambodia. The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs says the Security Council Five have picked up the major theme of Australia's proposal which is for a UN administration to run Cambodia in the lead-up to elections.

Although the Paris meeting was not specific about the Australian plan, a foreign affairs spokesman in Canberra says this is understandable. The spokesman says that the Security Council's communique contains everything Australia could have reasonably hoped for.

Radio Australia's diplomatic correspondent, Stewart Heather, says the Paris meeting went some of the way to solve the problem of who should hold Cambodian sovereignty until the outcome of elections.

Fiji

Rabuka Says Smaller Political Role for Military

BK1501100490 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0803 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Fiji's Army chief and coup leader, Major General Sitiveni Rabuka, says Fiji's military forces will be playing a lesser role in the island nation's political life. The general's comments—made in an interview with the FIJI TIMES newspaper—are his first since resigning his cabinet post to make way for a new, mainly civilian government.

Jemimah Gareth reports that Gen Rabuka's decision to play a lesser role in Fijian politics comes after an ultimatum last year from interim Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara. Ratu Mara is probably the only man capable of maintaining Fiji's fragile political stability. He made it clear that he would only stay on as interim prime minister if Gen Rabuka chose between the Army and politics. Some senior Army officers were angered by the ultimatum, and as the date for Gen Rabuka's resignation approached, members of the ousted Labor-National Federation Party coalition warned of the possibility of a third coup.

In his first interview since his resignation from cabinet, Gen Rabuka said he did not regret his decision to return to the barracks. He said it was great to be back as full-time commander of the Army and that he was really enjoying it. Gen Rabuka said that two other full-time military officers, who resigned from cabinet at the same time, would go back to their Army posts and that the security forces would concentrate on training and on trying to confirm their backseat stance.

Gen Rabuka welcomed Ratu Mara's decision to take over his former portfolio of home affairs. When asked about what position the Army would take when a new post-coup constitution is put in place, Gen Rabuka said that as a civil servant, he was not in a position to comment. Despite the fears of opponents of General Rabuka's two coups, it does appear that the Armed Forces commander will be willing to stick by his decision. Although he has not ruled out a role in politics in the future when elections are held, he has repeatedly said that he will not be involved in another military takeover.

In an earlier interview with (?Ireland's) BUSINESS magazine, Gen Rabuka said he agreed with Ratu Mara's view that if Fiji's second post-coup interim government was to get international recognition, it needed to be a real civilian government. The general said he did not believe he had been forced into a corner by the prime minister. Rather, his decision was one he had been contemplating himself and which had been taken after consultation with his senior officers.

Perhaps, most significantly, Gen Rabuka is happy with the draft constitution—the document which will give

effect to the aims of his coups by guaranteeing indigenous Fijians a permanent political supremacy over the equally numerous Indian community. In his interview with (?Ireland's) BUSINESS, he said he believed Fiji's Constitutional Advisory Committee had gone a long way in trying to accommodate the wishes of his people.

On the question of his opponents who want equal electoral representation, Gen Rabuka was dismissive. They have to come to grips, he said, with the fact that we have had two coups and that the objective of the coups was to give the Fijians political supremacy. While the first interim government achieved a dramatic economic recovery after the coups, it was not able to find a solution to Fiji's political problems.

The ousted coalition government has rejected the draft constitution and, as the elected government, says that no solution that does not have its backing will ever have legitimacy. Theirs is an ongoing problem with racially inspired violence against Indian religious institutions, and the almost exclusively Fijian Army still has the wherewithal to mount another takeover.

For Ratu Mara, the year ahead is likely to be a difficult one.

Papua New Guinea

'Militants' Attack After Emergency Extended

Two Soldiers Wounded

BK1301071290 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] Two soldiers were the latest casualties in the 13-month-old conflict on Papua New Guinea's Bougainville island. A Radio Australia correspondent in Port Moresby, Rob Rushkie, said the soldiers were seriously wounded in a clash with militants in heavy terrain.

At least one person has died and another five have been wounded in the past 2 days since the security forces stepped up military activity to the most intense level in the 13-month guerrilla war.

Earlier, the national parliament voted overwhelmingly to extend the state of emergency on the island. The prime minister has ordered troops to find and destroy the rebels who have forced the closure of the Bougainville Copper Mine and seriously hit Papua New Guinea's economy.

Guard Killed at Limestone Plant

BK1501071890 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] On Bougainville island in Papua New Guinea, rebels have been blamed for the fatal shooting of a security guard at a limestone crushing plant at (Monatie) near the east coast town of Arawa.

Radio Australia's Port Moresby office reports that the security guard from East New Britain Province was guarding the (Monatie) limestone company's plant when it was stormed by militants. The guard was shot in the head and died immediately.

Also on Bougainville island over the weekend, a New Zealand man narrowly escaped death when he was ambushed while driving across a road bridge.

Our Port Moresby Office says that the man, a plantation manager near (Wakunai), accelerated after seeing a group of men near the bridge [words indistinct] shotguns and shattered the windshield. The man escaped unhurt.

Attack on Police Station

BK1601074090 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] On the Papua New Guinea island of Bougainville, about 50 rebels have attacked the Panguna police station near the big copper mine. A Radio Australia correspondent in Port Moresby, Rob Rushkie, reports that one rebel was killed and a policeman critically injured. The 2-hour battle was one of the biggest rebel offensive in the 13-month-old guerrilla war.

Our correspondent says Papua New Guinea security forces are stepping up activity on the island after the government's order to destroy rebel forces. Rushkie adds that the prime minister, Mr Rabbie Namaliu, given a few months extension of the state of emergency has abandoned more than 1 year of peace talks and opted for a military solution with the violent secessionists rebellion on Bougainville.

Offensive on Bougainville Prison

BK1701073390 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Jan 90

[Text] Reports from Papua New Guinea say that at least seven people are dead after a further rebel attack on Bougainville Island. In the second strike in 2 days, scores of rebels also cut power to the mining town of Panguna and fired on residents for an hour.

A Radio Australia correspondent in Port Moresby, Rob Rushkie, says the latest attack came just after midnight when militants launched an offensive against the island's (Kuviara) prison in an attempt to steal weapons.

Rushkie said rebels were reported to have shot dead three prison wardens and killed a woman and a girl. Reports said two other people were burned beyond recognition while 15 others were injured in the attack.

Yesterday, a rebel was killed and a policeman critically injured when rebels attacked a police station in Panguna. Rushkie said the death toll on Bougainville since the national government announced a get-tough policy 5 days ago now stands at 10.